THE

MINUTES OF THE SYNOD

OF THE

Presbyterian Church of Canada,

AT ITS SESSIONS AT KINGSTON, C. W.,

JUNE 9-17, 1857.

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1857.

OFFICERS OF SYNOD, 1857–8.

Rev. GEORGE SMELLIE, Fergus, Moderator.
Rev. WILLIAM REID, A. M., Toronto, Clerk of Synod, and General Agent for the Schemes of the Church.
JOHN REDPATH, Esq., Montreal, Treasurer for Foreign Mission Fund.

CONVENERS OF COMMITTEES.

Home Mission Committee—Rev. W. Reid, Toronto.
Committee on State of Religion—Rev. J. Scott, London.
College Committee—Rev. W. Gregg.
Widows' Fund—J. Osborne, Esq., Hamilton.
Agency Committee—Dr. Burns.
Board of Publication, &c.—Rev. D. Inglis, Hamilton.
Committee on Registration of Marriages, &c.—Rev. T. Lowry.
" on Foreign Missions—Rev. D. Fraser, Montreal, and Rev. T. Lowry. Joint-Conveners.
" on Sabbath Observance—Rev. R. F. Burns, St. Catherines.
" on Sabbath Schools—Rev. W. Gregg, Belleville.
" on Statistics—Rev. S. C. Fraser, White Lake P. O.
" on College Deed—Rev. A. F. Kemp, Montreal.
" on Union with U. P. Church—Rev. R. Ure, Streetsville.

MEETING OF SYNOD.

FIRST SESSION.

At Kingston, and within Chalmers' Church there, the ninth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, the which day the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada met, and, after sermon by the Rev. George Cheyne, Moderator for the past year, from Luke, xvii. chap., and 5th verse, "Lord increase our faith," was constituted with prayer.

The Synod Roll was made up, and called; and the names of members in attendance were marked.

(*The names of Members in attendance are marked with an asterisk.*)

PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
William McAlister	— —	Metis.
*William B. Clark	*J. Gibb	Quebec.
Thomas Henry	— —	Lachutè.
Daniel Gordon	D. Davidson	Indian Lands, &c.
*John C. Quin	— —	Osnabruck, &c.
Donald Fraser, A. M	*J. Redpath	Cotè Street, Montreal.
*Alexander F. Kemp	— —	St. Gabriel Street, Montreal.
William Scott	— —	St. Sylvester.
Ewen McLean	— —	Winslow.
*Duncan Cameron	*M. McGillivray	Lochiel.
*James McConechy	— —	Leeds.
*Hugh Campbell	*J. Hunter	Cornwall.
*John Anderson	— —	Lancaster.
*Robert McArthur	*F. W. Torrance	St. Louis de Gonzague, &c.
*John Milne	— —	English River.
*John Crombie	*James Court	Inverness.
*Peter Currie	*N. Stewart	Vankleek Hill.

D. Fraser, *Pres. Clerk, Montreal.*

PRESBYTERY OF LONDON.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Donald McKenzie	Wm. Sutherland	Zorra.
Daniel Allan	*Benjamin Rigg	North Easthope.
*Thomas McPherson	— —	Stratford.
Duncan McMillan	Angus McKay	Aldboro'.
William Graham	Andrew Macaa	Egmondville.
James Findlay	*Thomas Smith	Mitchell.
Robert Wallace	Joseph Barker	Ingersoll.
William R. Sutherland	— —	Ekfrid and Mosa.
Angus McColl	— —	Chatham.
Lachlan McPherson	Donald Fraser	Williams.
William S. Ball	— —	Woodstock, Knox's Church.

PRESBYTERY OF LONDON—*Continued.*

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
*David Walker	*Archibald Young	Sarnia.
*John Scott	*Wm. Clark	London.
*William King	*G. Thompson	Buxton.
*John Ross	Robert Carnahan	Brucefield.
*Duncan McDiarmid	Donald McDonald	Woodstock, Chalmers' Ch.
*William McLaren	J. Bartlet	Amhertsburgh.
Andrew Tolmie	Wm. Rea	Blandford.
William Troup	Wm. Hastie	Plympton.
*William Doak	—— ——	Port Stanley.
James McNaughton	—— ——	Saugeen.
*James Ferguson	Wm. Colvin	Lobo.
*John Gauld	John McBean	Moore.
*William T. McMullen	—— ——	Mornington.
Alexander Young	—— ——	St. Thomas.
*John McMillan	Wm. Sutherland	Fingal.
*John Straith	Donald Couts	Tilbury.
*William Forrest	Duncan McKinlay	Ridgetown.
*John Rennie	—— ——	Beachville.
David Beattie	—— ——	St. Mary's.
—— ——	Jno. McKay	Thamesford.

JOHN SCOTT, *Pres. Clerk, London.*

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
*George Cheyne	T. Brown	Saltfleet and Binbrook.
M. Y. Stark	John Clark	Dundas.
*John Bayne, D.D	James Cowan	Galt.
*George Smellie	*A. D. Ferrier	Fergus.
*Alex. McLean	*William Wilson	Cumminsville and Nairn.
*John McKinnon	—— ——	Owen Sound.
*John Alexander	—— ——	Brantford.
*Duncan McRuar	Douglass Lillico	Ayr.
*Samuel Young	—— ——	Guelph.
*James Black	*Alexander Mitchell	Caledonia.
*Andrew J. McAuley	—— ——	Nassagaweya.
*Robert Irvine, D. D	*James Webster	Hamilton, (Knox's Church.)
*David Inglis	*Robert Hopkins	Hamilton, (McNab St. Ch.)
Andrew Steven	—— ——	Paris.
*Robert D. McKay	—— ——	Wellesley.
*Robert F. Burns	*J. Honeyman	St. Catharines.
*John Gillespie	Thomas McKenzie	Blenheim.
*Alex. McLean	—— ——	East Puslinch.
William McIndoe	—— ——	Wellington Square and Waterdown.
*William Craigie	—— ——	Port Dover and Simcoe.
*James Middlemiss	Charles Allan	Elora.
Thomas J. Hodgkins	—— ——	Doon and New Hope.
*Robert Jamieson	*S. Minor	Dunnville.
*A. C. Geikie	—— ——	Berlin.
*Andrew McLean	—— ——	West Puslinch.
Vacant	James Munroe	Niagara.
Vacant	William Mitchell	Woolwich.

M. Y. STARK, *Pres. Clerk, Dundas.*

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Robert Burns, D. D., (Professor of Church History and Evidences of Christianity, Knox's College.)		
*M. Willis, D. D., (S. S. T. P., Knox's College.)		
James Harris	—— ——	—— ——
*Thomas Lowry	*Wm. Heron	Whitby Town.
*William Reid, A. M., (Agent of the Church, &c.)		
*William Meldrum	David Campbell	Vaughan.
A. T. Holmes	Nathaniel Hunter	Chinguacousy.
Thos. Wightman	*Dr. J. R. Dickson	York Mills and Fisherville.
*John McTavish	*Donald Gunn	Thorah and Eldon.
John MacLachlan	*James Lindsay	Acton.
*Geo. P. Young, (Professor of Exegetical Theology, &c., Knox's College.)		
*James Nisbet	Robert Balmer	Oakville.
*Robert Ure	*William Blain	Streetsville.
R. C. Swinton	—— ——	Markham.
*John Gray	*John Miller	Orillia and Oro.
*Joseph Alexander, A. M	James Frazer	Union and Norval.
James Adams	—— ——	King.
Robert McKenzie	Hugh Trueman	Barrie and Innisfil.
*John Laing	*Alexander Wallace	Scarboro'.
*James Mitchell	—— ——	Milton and Boston Church.
*Thomas Sharp	*Peter Anderson	Ashburn and Utica.
Vacant	Peter McGill	Erin and Caledon West.
John Black	—— ——	Red River.

THOMAS WIGHTMAN, *Pres. Clerk, York Mills P. O.*

PRESBYTERY OF COBOURG.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
*James Douglass	*Alexander Anderson	South Cavan & Millbrooke.
*Donald McLeod	*Alexander Fraser	Cobourg.
*John M. Roger	*Robert Turnbull	Peterboro'.
*John W. Smith	*James Carruthers	Grafton and Colborne.
*William J. McKenzie	*Allan McIntosh	Baltimore and Cold Springs.
*Francis Andrews	*John Stevenson	Otonabee.
*John Smith	*John Smart	Darlington.
*William Blain	Edward Sanderson	Springville.
*James Bowie	Peter Buchanan	Norwood.
Vacant		Cartwright and Manvers. / Percy and Seymour.

JAMES BOWIE, *Pres. Clerk, Norwood P. O.*

PRESBYTERY OF KINGSTON.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
*William Gregg	*George Robertson	Belleville.
*James Hume	*William Tullough	Huntingdon & Tyendinaga.
*T. S. Chambers	*Samuel Anderson	Picton.
*J. A. Thomson	Jeremiah Summons	Trenton and Consecon.
Henry Gordon	—— ——	Gananoque.
*Andrew Wilson	*James Gibson	Kingston, Brock Street.
	*James Stewart	Kingston, Chalmers' Church.
D. Wishart	—— ——	Madoc.

WILLIAM GREGG, *Pres. Clerk, Belleville.*

PRESBYTERY OF BROCKVILLE AND OTTAWA.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
*Willliam Smart	—— ——	Without charge.
*Robert Boyd, D.D.	*Thomas Thompson	Prescott.
William Lochead	—— ——	Gloucester and N. Gower.
*James Geggie	—— ——	Dalhousie.
*S. C. Fraser, A. M.	*George Hay	McNab and Horton.
*Thomas Wardrope	*Alexander Kennedy	Ottawa.
*Andrew Melville	*William Elliot	Edwardsburgh.
*John Corbett	Robert Kennedy	Wakefield.
*Peter Gray	—— ——	Beckwith.
*James B. Duncan	*P. Kilpatrick	Perth.
*John L. Gourlay	—— ——	Alymer and Nepean.
*James Smith, A. M.	*A. Sherwoood	Brockville.
*David Wardrope	—— ——	Bristol.
*Henry McMeekin	—— ——	Pembroke.
		Osgoode and Russell.
		Ramsay.
		Kemptville.
		West Port.

S. C. Fraser, *Pres. Clerk, White Lake, P. O.*

Election of Moderator.

The Synod then proceeded to elect a Moderator, when Mr. Goerge Smellie, of Fergus, was unanimously elected, and took the chair.

Committee on Bills and Overtures.

The Synod appointed the following Committee on Bills and Overtures, viz:—the Moderator, and Clerk of Synod, Messrs. Kemp, Crombie, Scott, Ross, T. McPherson, S. Young, Cheyne, Dr. Irvine, Messrs. Inglis, Lowry, McTavish, Nisbet, Laing, Dr. Willis, Messrs. McLeod, Roger, John Smith, Gregg, Wilson, Dr. Boyd, Messrs. S. C. Fraser, T. Wardrope, James Smith, Ministers; and Messrs. Court, Clark, Ferrier, Mitchell, Heron, Wallace, Carruthers, Turnbull, Robertson, Stewart, Kennedy, and Sherwood, Elders. The Committee to meet for the first time, to-morrow morning at nine o'clock.

The Synod agreed to meet to-morrow at Ten o'clock, continuing in Session until One; to meet at Three, continuing in Session until Six; and to meet at Seven, continuing in session until Ten.

The Synod granted permission to Presbyteries to meet in Kingston during the interval of the Sessions of Synod for any competent business.

The Diet was closed with prayer.

SECOND SESSION.

Wednesday, 10*th June*, 10 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Synod again met and was constituted with prayer.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures presented a Report, together with several papers, and proposed arrangement for business for the day. The Report was unanimously sustained.

Devotional Exercises.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Committee on Bills and Overtures, the Synod spent two hours in devotional services which were conducted by Messrs. T. Wardrope, J. W. Smith, J. McTavish, and D. Inglis.

The Synod appointed the Moderator, Messrs. Cheyne and Wilson, a Committee to nominate ministers who may preach in the two Churches of this City, on Sabbath.

Mr. D. Fraser being absent, the Synod appointed Mr. Crombie interim Convener of the Committee on the State of Religion.

In the absence of Dr. Burns, the Synod appointed Mr. Lowry interim Convener of the Agency Committee.

Mr. T. Alexander, formerly minister at Cobourg, and for several years a minister of the Free Church of Scotland, being present, the Synod unanimously requested him to take a seat with the Synod.

On application duly made by the Presbytery of Cobourg, the Synod agreed to sanction the induction of Mr. Windell into a pastoral charge before the completion of a year of missionary service.

The hour of adjournment having come, the Diet was closed with prayer.

THIRD SESSION.

Wednesday, 10*th June, at* 3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Synod again met and was constituted with prayer.

The minutes of last Diet were read and sustained.

Appointment of Committees.

The Synod appointed the following Committees, viz:—

For examining the Public Accounts of the Church—Messrs. Gregg, Court, and Ferrier; Mr. Gregg, Convener.

For examining the Synod Records—Messrs. Kemp, Gregg, and A. Young; Mr. Kemp, Convener.

For examining the Record of the Presbytery of London—Messrs. Wilson, McRuar, and Webster; Mr. Wilson, Convener.

For examining the Record of the Presbytery of Hamilton—Messrs. Bowie, Nisbet, and Lindsay; Mr. Bowie, Convener.

For examining the Record of the Presbytery of Toronto—Messrs. T. McPherson, Middlemiss, and Wilson; Mr. McPherson, Convener.

For examining the Record of the Presbytery of Cobourg—Messrs. Scott, Mitchell, and Gunn; Mr. Scott, Convener.

For examining the Record of the Presbytery of Kingston—Messrs. Duncan, Cameron, and Carruthers; Mr. Duncan, Convener.

For examining the Record of the Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa—Professor Young, Messrs. Roger and G. Robertson; Professor Young, Convener.

Reference from Presbytery of London--Boston Church, U. S.

The Synod then proceeded to take up a reference from the Presbytery of London anent a call from Boston to Mr. W. McLaren, of Amhertsburgh. The documents in the case were read, aud also a memorial on the subject from the Presbytery of Montreal. Mr. McPherson and Mr. Ross were heard on the subject of the reference, and Mr. Kemp and Mr. Clark in support of the Memorial.

It was moved by Mr. Inglis, seconded by Mr. Cheyne,

"That the Synod sustain the reference, and approve of the conduct of the Presbytery of London; approve further of the reception of the Boston Congregation by the Presbytery of Montreal: resolve further, that in all cases of future application from congregations in similar circumstances Presbyteries shall obtain the sanction of the Synod before receiving such congregations."

It was moved in amendment by Mr. T. McPherson, seconded by Mr. A. Young,

"That the Synod sustain the reference, and disapprove of the conduct of the Montreal Presbytery in taking into connexion with this body a congregation in a foreign country without previously having consulted the Synod: yet, considering the peculiar circumstances of that congregation, the Synod recommend the Presbytery of Montreal to take it up as a missionary station, and supply it with christian ordinances."

The hour of adjournment having come, the Diet was closed with prayer.

FOURTH SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, 10*th June*, 7 *o'clock P. M.*

The Synod again met and was constituted with praise and prayer.

The minutes of last session were read and sustained.

On the report of the Committee appointed at a previous diet, the Synod appointed the following ministers to preach on Sabbath, viz:—

In Chalmers' Church—Mr. McTavish in the morning, Mr. Laing in the afternoon, and Mr. Mitchell in the evening.

In Brock Street Church—Dr. Irvine in the morning, Mr. Canning in the afternoon, and Mr. King in the evening.

Decision in Boston Church case.

The Synod then resumed consideration of the reference from the Presbytery of London, regarding the call from Boston U. S. to Mr. Wm. McLaren. The discussion having been brought to a close, the Synod proceeded to a vote on the motions submitted at the former diet, when there voted for the motion by Mr. Inglis, *eighty-eight*, and for the amendment by Mr. McPherson *eight*, several members declining to vote.

It was agreed to refer the matter of the call to Mr. McLaren to the Presbytery of London, which was instructed to meet for this purpose to morrow.

The Synod appointed Mr P. Gray, Mr. J. Laing and Mr. Webster a Committee, (Mr. Gray Convener,) to examine and report on the returns of Presbyteries to the overtures sent down from last Synod.

Rev. Mr. Allan, and Rev. Mr. Canning.

On application duly made, the Synod granted leave to the Presbytery of Montreal to receive as a Probationer of this Church, Mr. Allan, a Probationer from the Free Church of Scotland; also to the Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa to receive Mr. Canning, a minister formerly in connexion with the Associated Reformed Church in the United States.

Students to be taken on trial.

Leave was also given to receive on public probationary trials the following young men, namely, Mr. N. Patterson, Mr. J. White, Mr. P. Duncan, Mr. James Thom, Mr. D. Anderson, Mr. J. Cameron, and Mr. J. Blount, students of Divinity.

The hour of adjournment having come, the Diet was closed with prayer.

FIFTH SESSION.

THURSDAY, 11*th June*, 11 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Synod again met and was constituted with prayer.

After the usual devotional exercises, the Minutes of last Diet were read and sustained.

A report was given in by the Committee on Bills and Overtures on the arrangement of business. The same was sustained.

The Synod unanimously agreed that the next ordinary meeting

of Synod should take place in the city of Hamilton and in McNab Street Church there, on Tuesday the seventeenth day of June, 1858, at half-past six, P. M.

Provision for aged and infirm Ministers.

The Synod proceeded to take up an Overture from the Presbytery of Toronto on the subject of provision for aged and infirm ministers. The following was the deliverance of the Synod on this important subject, viz:—

Deliverance of Synod.

"The Synod approve of the overture, and in order to further the object contemplated, resolve, that a Committee be appointed to take what measures may to them appear proper, for bringing the subject before the Church, to receive any sum which may be contributed for this purpose, and to draw up such rules as may be necessary for the regulation of such a fund when established, and to report at next meeting of Synod."

The Committee was appointed as follows: Mr. Gregg, Convener, Messrs. McTavish, Lowry, Reid, ministers, and Messrs. Court, Ferrier, Stewart, McMurrich, Walker, Sherwood, and Alexander Mitchell.

Report of Committee on Widows' Fund

The Synod then called for the report of the Committee on the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. The same was given in and read, showing the gross accumulated fund to be now £5358 13s. It was moved, seconded and agreed, that the report be received and adopted, and that the thanks of the Synod be given to the Committee, and especially to the Convener, John Fisher, Esq., for the valuable services which he has rendered to the scheme since its commencement, and that the Committee be re-appointed—James Osborne of Hamilton, Convener.

The hour of adjournment having come, the Diet was closed with prayer.

SIXTH SESSION.

THURSDAY, 11*th June*, 3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Synod again met and was constituted with prayer.

The minutes of last Diet were read and sustained.

Dissent and complaint by Mr. P. Gray.

The Synod proceeded to take up a dissent and complaint by Mr. Peter Gray, against the finding of the Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa. After the papers had been read, and parties heard, two motions were brought forward. It was moved by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. J. W. Smith.

"That the Synod dismiss the dissent and complaint, and sustain the action of the Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa in the matter."

It was moved by Mr. McTavish, seconded by Professor Young,

"That the Synod sustain the dissent and complaint, disapprove of the decision of the Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa complained

of, at the same time recommend the Presbytery to use all means in their power to obtain for Mr. Melville, payment of the arrears of stipend due to him."

Mr. Clark's motion was carried by a large majority.

Rev. G. J. C. Duncan of Greenwich.

The Rev. G. J. C. Duncan, of Greenwich, a minister of the Presbyterian Church in England, and Clerk of the Synod, having come into the house, the Synod unanimously agreed to welcome him amongst them, and to request him to take a seat with them. The Moderator conveyed to Mr. Duncan the request of the Synod, and Mr. Duncan took his seat accordingly.

Reference from Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa.

The Synod then proceeded to take up a reference from the Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa. The reference was occasioned by the continued use of instrumental music by the congregation of Brockville. The papers in the case were read, and Dr. Boyd and other members of the Presbytery were heard in explanation of the reference. Mr. Smith and Mr. Sherwood were heard in behalf of the Session of Brockville.

The hour of adjournment having come, the Diet was closed with prayer.

SEVENTH SESSION.

THURSDAY, 11*th June, 7 o'clock, P.M.*

The Synod again met, and was constituted with prayer and praise.

The minutes of last Diet were read and sustained.

Brockville case resumed.

The Synod resumed consideration of the reference from the Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa. Dr. Edmondson and Mr. Wylie were heard in behalf of the Congregation of Brockville.

The Synod then proceeded to discuss the reference.

Mr. Kemp's motion.

1st. It was moved by Mr. Kemp, seconded by Mr. Gillespie,—

"That the Synod sustain the reference; approve of the conduct of the Presbytery; again declare that the use of instrumental music in public worship is not in accordance with the usages of this Church: nevertheless considering that the organ was introduced into the Church at Brockville, under the impression that such a course was not contrary to the laws or principles of this Church; —considering further, that the congregation is unanimous in their desire to retain the organ as an aid in leading the praises of the Sanctuary, and that the peace of the congregation has not been interfered with, the Synod instruct the Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa to take no further action in this matter, but enjoin upon Presbyteries to take heed that no similar case be permitted in the Church, without the express sanction of the Synod."

Mr. Inglis' motion.

2. It was moved by Mr. Inglis, seconded by Mr. A. Mitchell,

"That the Synod sustain the reference; and inasmuch as the finding of last Synod was designed to direct the action of the Presbytery of Brockville, and cause the musical instrument to be removed from the Church of Brockville, therefore direct the Presbytery to proceed in this case, with the view of removing such musical instrument from the Church of Brockville without delay, and that a Commission of Synod be appointed to act with the Presbytery of Brockville in this case."

Mr. Gregg's motion.

3. It was moved by Mr. Gregg, seconded by Mr. Lowry,

"That the Synod sustain the reference from the Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa; regret to learn that instrumental music is still retained in Brockville, but finding that its continuance has resulted, to a great extent, from the congregation being unaware of the Synod's desire for its removal, appoint a Committee of Synod to visit Brockville,—confer with the Session and Congregation, representing to them the views of the Synod, and urging upon them the importance of bringing their practice into conformity with the general usages of our Church, in the matter of celebrating the praises of God."

Mr. McLaren's motion.

4. It was moved by Mr. McLaren, seconded by Mr. Ross,

"That the Synod sustain the reference; adhere to the resolution of 1855, anent the use of instrumental music in the public worship of God, but inasmuch as it appears that the continuance of the organ in the Brockville congregation has arisen from a misapprehension of the law of this Church, appoint Dr. Bayne, Mr. Ure, Mr. Court, and Mr. Torrance, to visit that congregation, and report to the Synod during its present sessions, with a view to the final disposal of this case."

Mr. Inglis' motion carried.

After full discussion, the Synod proceeded to a division. Mr. Kemp, with the permission of the Synod, withdrew his motion. Mr. Gregg's motion and Mr. McLaren's were put to the house, when a majority were in favour of Mr. Gregg's motion. Mr. Gregg's motion and that by Mr. Inglis, were then put against each other, when Mr. Inglis' motion was carried by a large majority, and adopted as the decision of the Synod. In terms of the motion, the Synod appointed Dr. Willis, Mr. Inglis, Mr. Court, and Mr. Torrance, as a commission to act with the Presbytery of Brockville and Ottaw in the matter.

Thereafter, the hour of adjournment having come, the Diet was closed with prayer.

EIGHTH SESSION.

FRIDAY, *12th June, 9½ o'clock, A. M.*

The Synod again met and was constituted with prayer, praise, and the reading of the Word.

The minutes of last Diet were read and sustained.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures presented a report, together with proposed arrangement of business, which was adopted.

Report of College Committee.

The Synod called for the report of the College Committee, and the same was given in by Dr. Willis, Convener, and read. There was also laid before the Synod, a statement of the position of the College Fund.

Rev. G. J. C. Duncan addresses Synod.

The Synod then proceeded to hear Mr. Duncan, as representative of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church in England. Mr. Duncan having addressed the Synod, the following resolution was moved and unanimously adopted, viz:—

Resolution of Synod.

"That this Synod greet with much satisfaction, the Rev. Mr. Duncan as a visitor from the English Presbyterian Church, and request the Moderator to express their thanks to Mr. Duncan for his address, assuring him of their hearty affection to his Synod and Church; to request him to convey to his brethren the assurance of the pleasure which it will always afford to this Synod to receive or render, as Providence may give opportunity, such tokens of brotherly interest and co-operation in the service of our common master."

The Moderator accordingly tendered to Mr. Duncan the cordial thanks of the Synod.

The Synod thereafter proceeded to consider the report of the College Committee, and after lengthened deliberation it was, on the motion of Mr. Kemp, seconded by Mr. Wilson, resolved,

Consideration of College Report.

"That the Synod sustain the Report; regret to find that the contributions from the congregations of the Church, in behalf of the Ordinary College Fund, do not amount to the required expenditure,—anticipating, however, that this deficiency will yet, for the most part, be made up by the contributions still to be received. The Synod further considering the importance of maintaining, without embarrassment, the Theological Institution of the Church, urge upon the ministers, office-bearers, and members of the Church to take this matter into their serious consideration, and remit the subject for the considerate attention of Presbyteries, Sessions, Deacons' Courts, and Managers of Congregations, and that it be earnestly recommended that the moneys to be raised for the above purpose be raised by subscriptions."

The hour of adjournment having come, the Diet was closed with prayer.

NINTH SESSION.

FRIDAY, *12th June, 3 o'clock, P. M.*

The Synod again met, and was constituted with prayer.

The minutes of last Diet were read and sustained.

The Synod resumed consideration of the College Report. After lengthened discussion, especially on the Tutorship, the hour of adjournment having come, the Diet was closed with prayer.

TENTH SESSION.

FRIDAY, 12*th June*, 7, *P.M.*

The Synod again met, and was constituted with prayer and praise.

The minutes of last Diet were read and sustained.

Report on Synod Record.

The Committee appointed to examine the Synod Record presented a Report. The same was received, and the Synod ordered the Record to be attested as carefully kept.

Report of Committee on Foreign Mission.

The Synod then called for the Report of the Committee on Foreign Missions. The same was given in, and read by Mr. Lowry, joint-Convener.

On motion made and seconded, it was agreed—

"That the Synod receive and adopt the Report, re-appoint the Committee, and express their gratitude to God for his goodness to them in regard to this matter, and their firm resolution in dependence upon Him to carry forward the work of evangelizing the heathen."

Report of Committee on Colportage and Publication.

The Synod called for the Report of the Committee on Colportage and Publication. The Report was given in by Mr. Inglis, Convener of the Committee. After lengthened conference, the following deliverance was come to, viz:—

"That the Synod receive and adopt the Report, approve of the diligence of the Committee, and especially of the Convener; considering however that some difference of opinion exists in regard to the propriety of the Church engaging in so extensive a scheme of Colportage, as the Committee contemplated, instruct said Committee to undertake no farther liabilities than may be necessary for the working out of the present plan pursued by the Committee, and to report to the next meeting of Synod the result of their experience in reference to the best mode of accomplishing the object contemplated in the scheme, and recommend the various Presbyteries to assist the Committee in their operations."

The Synod elected the following persons members of the Board, viz., Messrs. King, Laing, R. F. Burns, and McTavish, ministers, in room of Dr. Burns, Rev. J. Alexander, Rev. R. F. Burns, and Rev. A. F. Kemp, who now retire; and Messrs. Begg, Clark, Cowan and Dewar, who retire by rotation.

Thereafter the Diet was closed with prayer.

ELEVENTH SESSION.

SATURDAY, 13*th June*, 10 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Synod again met and was constituted by prayer, praise, and the reading of the Word.

The minutes of last Diet were read and sustained.

French Canadian Missionary Society.

Mr. Court made a statement relative to the French Canadian Missionary Society, and submitted for the decision of the Synod the inquiry whether in the event of one of the ministers of this Church being appointed secretary and general agent of the Society, would he be allowed to retain his status in the Church, and his interest in the Widows' Fund. The Synod agreed to take this matter into consideration at some future Diet.

Report of Committee on holding of College Property.

Mr. Court, Convener of the Committee appointed to prepare a draft of deed of the College property, laid on the table a draft of an Act of Incorporation, which, in the opinion of the Committee appeared to be the most expedient mode of arranging this matter. This report was ordered in the meantime to lie on the table.

Report of Judicial Committee.

The Report of the Judicial Committee was called for and given in by Mr. Kemp, Convener.

It was on motion made and seconded, agreed

"That the Synod receive the report, and re-appoint the Committee with directions to prepare a digest of the laws and practice of the Church, to be compiled from the minutes of past Synods, and to report to next meeting of Synod with the view of publishing such digest as an appendix to the Minutes of Synod for 1858.

The hour of adjournment having come, the Diet was closed with prayer.

TWELFTH SESSION.

SATURDAY, 13*th June*, 3 *o'clock P. M.*

The Synod again met and was constituted with prayer.

The minutes of last Diet were read and sustained.

Reports on Presbytery Records.

Reports were called for from the Committees appointed to examine the Records of the several Presbyteries.

The same were given in and read. The reports were sustained, and the Records ordered to be attested in terms of the several reports.

College Report resumed.

The Synod then resumed consideration of the College report.

It was moved by Mr. Ure, seconded by Mr. Cheyne.

"That it be agreed to dispense, for the present year, with a regular tutorship, in connexion with the College, and that it be remit-

ted to the College Committee, to make the best arrangement in reference to this matter, that circumstances may admit of."

It was moved by Mr. McLaren and seconded by Mr. Inglis.

"That the Synod, convinced that the Tutorship is still required in Knox's College, instruct the Committee to take an immediate step to secure an interim Tutor.

After discussion, Mr. Ure's motion was carried by a majority and adopted.

The following resolutions were adopted, after discussion, with reference to the College.

"That all necessary arrangements, with reference to the Boarding House be remitted to the College Committee, it being an instruction to them, that such arrangement as shall be made, shall not make the Boarding House a burden on the College Fund."

"That according to the recommendation of the College Committee, a principal be appointed to Knox's College, and that Dr. Willis be chosen to that office."

"That the attention of Presbyteries be again directed to the regulations of the Synod, in regard to the examination of students, recommending them to give special attention thereto, and appointing Reports of the Presbyteries to be sent to the Convener of the College Committee on or before the 31st of May."

It was remitted to the College Committee to make arrangements as to the time of commencing and closing the College Session.

The College Committee was appointed as follows, viz:—

From the Presbytery of Toronto, Dr. Willis, Dr. Burns, Professor Young, Messrs. Reid, Lowry, Gregg, McTavish, Ure, Laing, Ministers; and Messrs. McMurrich, Henning, C. S. Patterson, and Laidlaw.

From the Presbytery of Hamilton, Dr. Irvine, Messrs. Inglis, McRuar, S. Young, John Alexander, Dr. Bayne, Ministers; and Messrs. Dickerman, Hopkin, Mitchell, and McKenzie, Elders.

From the Presbytery of London, Messrs. Scott, Ross, McKenzie, Ball, T. McPherson, McDiarmid, Ministers; and Messrs. Clarke, Smith, Gunn, and Douglas—Elders.

From the Presbytery of Cobourg, Messrs. McLeod, Roger, John Smith—Ministers; and Messrs. Riddell and Fraser—Elders.

From the Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa, Messrs. T. Wardrope, Duncan, Smith, and Dr. Boyd, Ministers; and Messrs. McLaren, Nicoll, and Sherwood—Elders.

From the Presbytery of Montreal, Messrs. Clark, Fraser, Kemp, and Anderson—Ministers; Messrs. Court, Redpath, and F. W. Torrance—Elders. Mr. Gregg to be Convener.

The Synod appointed Messrs. Reid and Gregg assessors with the Professors, in the Professors' Court.

The Diet was then closed with prayer.

THIRTEENTH SESSION.

MONDAY, *15th June, 10 o'clock, A. M.*

The Synod again met, and was constituted with prayer, praise, and the reading of the Word.

The minutes of last Diet were read and sustained.

The Synod appointed the following Committee to draw up a loyal and dutiful address to Her Majesty the Queen, viz.: Dr. Willis, Dr. Irvine, Mr. Kemp, and the Clerk of Synod;—Dr. Willis, Convener.

The Synod then took up an Overture from the Elders on the subject of Manses. The Overture was in the following terms:—

Overture on Manses.

"The Elders of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, taking into their serious consideration the small number of Manses, compared with the number of churches and congregations now organized, and likely to be hereafter organized, having regard also to the limited amount of stipend allowed to ministers of this Church, in many cases not amounting to the minimum already recommended, and holding it most desirable that every minister should have a Manse in connection with his Church, and, where practicable, in country places, a small glebe;—would impress on the Synod the propriety of their giving such injunction or deliverance to the Presbyteries and congregations on this subject, as may induce them to take considerate action on so important a subject. Your memorialists would suggest that congregations that may not be in circumstances to build Manses at once, would at least endeavour to acquire sites, and this they would particularly impress upon new stations, feeling by experience how much easier it is to acquire land in a new settlement, than some years after."

A. D. FERRIER.
JAMES COURT.

Chalmers' Church, Kingston,
11th June, 1857.

Approved by Synod.

The Synod unanimously resolved to approve of the Overture, and to call the attention of Presbyteries to the important matters therein set forth, and direct the Overture to be printed in the *Record*, with the view of bringing the matter more extensively under the notice of the members of the Church.

Draft Act of Incorporation considered.

The Synod then took up consideration of the draft of Act of Incorporation embodied in the Report of the Committee.

It was unanimously agreed to receive the Report, and approve of the diligence of the Committee entrusted with the duty, and to proceed to read and consider the draft section by section.

The preamble was agreed to, with the exception, that the name of the College shall be "Knox College" instead of "The John Knox College."

Section 1st. was read and approved, with the exception of 'three years' for 'one year' as the period within which real estate acquired by the College shall be sold.

Section 2nd was read and approved, with the omission of one

clause begining with the words 'with the concurrence,' and ending with the words 'as the Synod shall prescribe.'

The hour of adjournment having come, the Diet was closed with prayer.

FOURTEENTH SESSION.

MONDAY, 15*th June*, 3 *o'clock*, *P. M.*

The Synod again met and was constituted with prayer.

The minutes of last Diet were read and sustained.

Consideration of Act of Incorporation resumed.

The Synod resumed consideration of the draft of the Act of Incorporation for Knox College.

Section 3rd was read and adopted with certain modifications.

Section 4th was read and adopted.

Section 5th was read and adopted.

Section 6th was read and adopted with the addition of three Elders or members of the Church to form the College Senate.

Section 7th was read and adopted.

Section 8th was read and agreed to, with certain alterations, viz., that the Board of Trustees should be composed of 24 persons appointed by the Synod, of whom one fourth may be ministers, the rest to be office-bearers or members of the church in full communion.

Section 9th was read and adopted, with certain modifications.

The father consideration of this matter was deferred until to-morrow morning.

The Diet was closed with prayer.

FIFTEENTH SESSION.

MONDAY, 15*th June*, 7 *o'clock*, *P. M.*

The Synod again met and was constituted with prayer and praise.

The minutes of last Diet were read and sustained.

Overture on mission to American Indians.

The Synod took up an Overture from the Presbytery of Toronto on the subject of a mission to the North American Indians. The Overture was generally approved, and referred to the Presbytery

of Toronto, with the view of obtaining more full information on the subject, and reporting to next meeting of Synod.

Home Mission Report.

The Report of the Home Mission Committee was called for.—The Report was given in and read by Rev. W. Reid, Convener. From the report it appeared that twenty-one pastoral settlements had taken place during the year now past, and that there are at present thirty-four vacant charges, and about forty stations requiring supply; and that there are now labouring as missionaries within the bounds of the several Presbyteries fifty missionaries, a considerable proportion being students of Knox's College.

Deliverance of Synod.

The Synod unanimously agreed to receive and adopt the report, and that, grateful for the success which has attended their efforts in times past, they resolve, in dependence on the continued blesing of God, on the vigorous prosecution of the work committed to them.

Buxton Mission.

The Rev. Mr. King gave in a report of the Buxton Mission, from which it appeared that the mission is on the whole in a prosperous condition, there being in the settlement about two hundred families. There are two teachers in the day schools with ninety-eight scholars, while there are one hundred scholars at the sabbath school and eight teachers.

The Report was approved, and the Synod resolved to recognize with gratitude to God, the success which has attended the efforts at Buxton under Mr. King's superintendence, and continue their efforts for the support of the mission.

Red River.

Mr. Reid gave in a verbal report of the Red River Mission, and mentioned that there would appear in the statistical table when published, a full return from the Red River Congregation.

Overture on Synodical Fund

The Synod took up an Overture from the Presbytery of Montreal, on the subject of a Synodical fund, for aiding congregations not in circumstances to support a stated ministry.

Sent down to Presbyteries.

The Synod while recognizing the importance of the subject, agreed that the overture be sent down to Presbyteries for their consideration.

Overture on employment of Probationers.

The Synod also took up an Overture from certain members of Synod on the subject of the employment of probationers. This overture was also sent down for the consideration of Presbyteries.

Home mission Committee.

The Home Mission Committee was appointed as follows, viz., Messrs. Reid, Ure, Wightman, Nisbet, Gray, Gregg, Stark, McRuar, Burns, Dr. Irvine, Messrs. Inglis, Black, A. McLean of Puslinch, Scott, McDiarmid, Ball, Tolmie, Walker, King, McMillan, of Fingal, W. J. McKenzie, McLeod, J. W. Smith, Wilson, Chambers, S. C. Fraser, Jas. Smith, P. Gray, D. Fraser, Kemp, Currie, and Anderson, Ministers; and Messrs. Telfer, Bannerman, Wallace, Archibald Young, W. Wilson, Thomson, Dougan, McKenzie, Ross, Gordon, Beith, Turnbull, Stewart, Graham, Nicoll, Cattanach, Court, Redpath, Webster, Ross, and Dr. Holden, Elders—Mr. Reid, Convener.

Report on Sabbath observance.

The Synod then called for the Report of the Committee on Sabbath Observance. The same was given in by Rev. R. F. Burns and read. The report stated the action taken since last Synod, and the various encouragements and discouragements connected with the Sabbath question, and contained several recommendations.

It was moved, seconded, and agreed

Deliverance of Synod.

"That the Report be received, and the Committee be re-appointed and instructed to renew their exertions in behalf of the sanctification of the Lord's day, and that special attention be paid in their treatment of this great question to the growing sin of Sabbath desecration by the Railroad Companies of the Province."

Committee re-appointed.

The Sabbath Observance Committee was re-appointed as follows, viz., Rev. R. F. Burns, Convener, Messrs. Gordon, Lowry, Reid, Gregg, Inglis, Drs. Burns, Willis, and Irvine, Ministers; and Messrs. Stewart, Redpath, Robertson, and McMurrich, Elders.

The Synod adjourned till to-morrow morning, and the Diet was closed with prayer.

SIXTEENTH SESSION.

THURSDAY, 16*th June*, 9½ *o'clock, A.M.*

The Synod again met, and was constituted with prayer and praise, and the reading of the Word.

A Report was given in by the Committee on Bills and Overtures, with arrangement of business still unfinished. The same was received and approved.

The Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa reported to the Synod that the congregation of Brockville had, at a congregational meeting, agreed to acquiesce in the decision of the Synod, with reference to the employment of instrumental music in the public worship of God. The Synod heard the Report with satisfaction.

Address to Her Majesty the Queen.

The Committee appointed to draft an Address to Her Majesty the Queen, reported draft of Address. The same was read, amended, and approved, and ordered to be written out, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk of Synod, in order to be transmitted to Her Majesty. The Address is in the following terms, viz.:—

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

"We the Ministers and Elders of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in Synod assembled, beg leave to present to your Majesty the assurance of our most dutiful and loyal attachment to Your Majesty's person and Government. More especially we beg to congratulate Your Majesty, and Your Majesty's Royal Consort, on the late auspicious birth of an infant Princess,—an event not more fraught with joy to the maternal heart of our Sovereign, than hailed by an attached nation as an additional pledge from Providence for the continuance of the dynasty, which now holds the sceptre of the British Empire.

"We congratulate Your Majesty, and Your Majesty's Government on the successful termination of the late war,—and that, on terms which we would fondly hope shall be of happy influence on the world's civilization, and favorable to the diffusion of civil and religious liberty.

"Nor can we omit to recognize in the proposed alliance of Your Majesty's Royal House with a leading Protestant Dynasty, another matter of congratulation, as affording, under Divine Providence, a further guarantee for the consolidation of European peace.

"That it may please Almighty God long to preserve Your Majesty's life and health, and that He may bless Your Majesty, Your Royal Consort, and all the members of the Royal Family, with all temporal and spiritual blessings, is the prayer of, may it please Your Majesty.

"Your Majesty's faithful and dutiful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada."

Dr. Tayler and Mr. Ormiston, requested to sit as corresponding members.

On motion made and seconded it was unanimously agreed to request Dr. Taylor of Montreal, and Mr. Ormiston of Hamilton, deputies from the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church, to sit as corresponding members of Synod. Dr. Taylor and Mr. Ormiston accordingly took their seats.

Consideration of Act of Incorporation resumed.

The Synod proceeded to consider the draft of Act of Incorporation for Knox's College.

Section 10th was adopted, with certain alterations rendered necessary by alterations in the previous sections.

Section 11th was read, and ordered to be deleted.

Section 12th was read, and agreed to.

Section 13th was read, and agreed to.

It was then, on motion made and seconded, resolved, that the Synod agree to the draft as now amended.

The draft is in the following terms:—

DRAFT OF AN ACT TO INCORPORATE "KNOX COLLEGE."

(*Passed by the Synod, Kingston, June* 16*th*, 1857.)

Whereas a Theological Institution has been for some time, and is now in operation at Toronto, in this Province, under the authority of the Synod of the "Presbyterian Church of Canada," and the said Synod has petitioned the Legislature for an Act to Incorporate the said Institution under the name of "Knox College." And whereas it is expedient to comply with the said petition; Be it therefore enacted, &c.:—

1. That (*the names of the first Trustees are here inserted*) and all and every such other person and persons as now is, or are, or shall at any time hereafter be Ministers of the Presbyterian Church of

Draft Act of Incorporation.

Canada, or members of the said Church in full communion therewith, shall, henceforth, be a body corporate under the name of "Knox College," and shall continue to be a body corporate with pepetual succession and a common seal and with the powers vested in corporate bodies by "The Interpretation Act," and also with power under the said corporate name to hold all property now held by the said Institution, or by any one or more person or persons in trust for the benefit of the said Institution, and to purchase, acquire, have, take, hold, and enjoy by gift, grant, conveyance, devise, bequest, or otherwise, to them and their successors, any estate or property, real or personal, to and for the use of the said College, in trust for the promotion of Theological learning and education of youth for the Office of the Holy Ministry, under the authority and according to the principles and standards of the Presbyterian Church of Canada aforesaid, and also with power to let, convey or otherwise dispose of such real or personal estate from time to time as may be deemed expedient, with the written consent of the Synod; Provided always that such real estate so held by the said College, hereby incorporated, shall be such and such only as may be required for the purposes of College buildings and offices, residences for the Professors, Tutors, Students and Officers, with gardens or pleasure grounds pertaining thereto; Provided also that any other real estate may be acquired by the said College in manner aforesaid, if the same shall be sold within three years from the date of its acquisition, and the proceeds thereof be invested in the public securities of the Province, Stocks of the Chartered Banks, mortgages or other approved securities for the use of the said College.

2. That the principles and doctrines to be taught in the said College by the Professors and Tutors or other persons who shall from time to time, and at all times hereafter be employed or appointed in giving instruction in the said College, shall be such and such only as are consistent with the "Confession of Faith," "The larger and shorter Catechism,s" and "The form of Church Government," all of which are called "The Westminister Standards," and shall comprise all theological learning consistent with the said standards; Provided always that the said "Confession of Faith" be understood and taken with the explanatory note thereto, agreed upon by the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, met at Toronto in the year of our Lord, 1854; Provided also that the said "Westminister Standards" be taken and understood together with such other or further directions and rules as to Church Government, Discipline or Worship, as may from time to time be prescribed or ordained by the Synod of the said Presbyterian Church of Canada, and that such directions and rules be duly recorded in the minute book of the said Synod and signed by the Moderator and Clerk for the time being of such Synod; Provided also, that in case of difference of opinion in regard to the true meaning of the said principles, doctrines, standards, directions and rules or any or either of them, the same shall be taken and deemed to be in accordance with the interpretation thereof respectively by the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, at a regular meeting thereof; of all which directions, rules and interpretations, a copy certified by the Moderator and Clerk of said Synod for the time being shall be sufficient evidence.

3. That all persons who shall from time to time and at all times hereafter be employed or appointed as Professors of Theology in the said College, shall, at the time of their induction into office, be ordained Ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Canada; and if Licentiates shall at any time be appointed, they shall before their induction, be ordained to the Holy Ministry in the usual manner by the Presbytery

of Toronto, or by a Commission specially appointed for that purpose by the Synod; andall persons, if any, who shall be appointed or employed as Tutors shall at the time of their entrance into office be members of the said Church in full communion therewith, and that said Professors and Tutors shall sign such ormula of adherence to the aforesaid "Westminster Standards" and to the discipline and government of the Church as may be required by the Synod.

4. That all Professors and Tutors who shall hereafter be appointed or employed in the said College, shall be appointed by the said Synod at its ordinary annual Session, or at any special meeting of the said Synod, to be called for the purpose of making such appointments or appointment by notice from the Moderator of Synod for the time being, to be sent to each member of Synod at least fifteen days before the day appointed for such special meeting, such appointments to be made by open vote of the majority of members present at the Sederunt of the said Synod at which the appointment shall be made, or in such other manner as the said Synod shall from time to time by resolution determine and direct to be pursued in making such appointments; Provided always that any such Professor or Tutor may resign or may by the said Synod be removed, suspended, or deposed from office, and in case of any such Tutor resigning or ceasing to be such member as aforesaid, or in case any such Professor being removed, or being deposed from the Ministry in due process of dicipline, such Tutor or Professor, so resigning, ceasing to be a member, or being removed, or deposed as aforesaid, shall *ipso facto* cease to be a Professor or Tutor in the said College, and cease to have any claim to any emolument or privilege belonging to the said College, and his office shall be vacant.

5. That the said Synod for the time being of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, shall, from time to time and at all times hereafter, at any ordinary Session of said Synod, or special meeting of said Synod convened as in manner aforesaid, have the sole and entire power to frame and establish and afterwards to alter, amend, or annul all regulations for governing the said College, for designating and prescribing the duties of the said Professors and Tutors, and for fixing the amount of their annual Stipends, for directing the course of studies, exercises, and tuition of the said Students, for the reception, education, and discipline of such Students, and if need be for the expulsion of any one or more of them from the said College.

6. That for the better execution of these purposes the Synod shall have authority to constitute the Professor or Professors of said College together with five ordained Ministers on the roll of the Synod, and Three Elders or members of the Church in full communion to be annually appointed, into a Court to be called the "College Senate," for the exercise of Academical Superintendence and Discipline over the Students and all other persons within said College, and with such powers for maintaining order and enforcing obedience to the statutes, rules, and ordinances of the said College, as to the Synod may seem necessary; such Senate shall have charge and management of the Library and Museum, and shall also have power and authority to confer the degrees of Bachelor of Divinity and Doctor of Divinity in such manner and on such conditions as the Synod may from time to time approve or appoint.

7. That said Corporation and their successors shall for ever have a "Board of Trustees" to be appointed in manner hereinafter appointed who shall have the whole management of the financial affairs of the said College, shall receive and disburse all its revenues, keep and manage

Draft Act of Incorporation.

all its property, and transact all its business relating to property and money committed to their care and trust by the said Synod; but in cases where special instructions for the management and disposal of said revenues and property shall be given by the Synod in writing under the hand of their Clerk, it shall be the duty of the said Board to act according to such instructions; Provided the said instructions be not repugnant to this Act or the Laws of the Province. Said Board shall also have power and authority to appoint on such terms, as they may deem suitable, all subordinate officer and servants required in said College, or as may be determined upon by the Synod, and shall dismiss and remove said officers or servants as they shall see fit; Provided, that said Board shall present an annual report of all matters entrusted to them, with a statement and balance sheet of the Financial affairs and property of the said College, to the said Synod, on or before the second day of its yearly Session.

8. That the said Board of Trustees shall be composed of twenty-four persons of whom not more than one fourth may be ministers, the remainder whether three-fourths or more, shall be elders, deacons, or members in full communion with the Presbyterian Church of Canada, and that the several persons hereinbefore named shall be the first and present Trustees of the said Corporation, and shall respectively continue in office until others shall be appointed in their stead in manner hereinafter described; Provided, that in case any such Trustee or his successor being a layman, that is an elder, deacon or member, shall remove permanently from the Province, or shall resign or cease to be a member in such full communion, or being a Minister, shall resign or permanently leave the Province, or be suspended or deposed in due process of discipline, such Trustee so resigning or permanently absent, or ceasing to be a member. or being suspended, or deposed, shall *ipso facto* cease to be such Trustee, and his office of Trustee shall be vacant; Provided, that in case of any vacancy in the office of Trustees by reason of any of the matters aforesaid, or any other matter, then it shall be lawful for the remaining Trustees at a meeting of the Board, to be called by the Chairman for that purpose by a majority of votes of those present at such a meeting, to elect a Minister-Trustee in the room of a Minister-Trustee from the roll of the Synod, and in the room of a Layman-Trustee, any Lay member of the Church eligible as aforesaid, and the Trustee or Trustees thus elected shall take the place on the roll of the Trustees of the person or persons in whose room he or they shall have been elected, and shall retire from the Trusteeship in the order in which such person or persons would have retired; Provided also, that five shall form a sufficient quorum for the transaction of all business, and the Chairman shall only have a casting vote in case of equality of votes on any matter properly before the Board. The Chairman of the said Board shall be appointed annually by the Synod and shall convene said Board at such time and place, and in such manner as may be most convenient or may be appointed by the Synod. The Board shall appoint its own Treasurer and Secretary, who shall keep records which shall be open to inspection at any time by the Synod.

9. That all the members of the said Board, successors of the present Trustees, shall from time to time and at all times hereafter be elected by the said Synod, by an open vote of the majority of the members thereof, present at the Sederunt of Synod, at which such election shall take place, on the second day or any subsequent day of the annual Session of the said Synod.

Draft Act of Incorporation.

10. That the names of the 24 Trustees hereinbefore mentioned, and the names of their successors chosen in manner aforesaid, shall be enrolled by the Clerk of the Synod in alphabetical order, and they shall hold office, from the day of their election, until the election of their successors; Provided that, on the second day of the annual Session of the said Synod, for the year 1859, the first eight named in said roll, shall retire from the said Trusteeship, and so on, annually thereafter, counting from the top of the said roll, and their places at the Board shall be filled up by eight Trustees chosen annually in manner aforesaid; the eight Trustees last chosen to be placed at the foot of the said roll, which roll is to be made up yearly by the Clerk of the said Synod so that eight Trustees shall retire yearly from the said Board in rotation, reckoning from the top of the roll so yearly made up by the said Clerk; Provided always that the Trustees so retiring annually in rotation shall be eligible for re-election.

12. That in case the body of Christians, known under the name of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, shall, at any time or times hereafter, under that or any other name, unite itself with any other body or bodies of Presbyterians adhering to the Standards aforesaid, or take such other body or bodies of Presbyterians into union with itself, and in case such united body of Presbyterians shall agree to hold and shall hold a Synod once or oftener in each year according to the manner now in use in the said Presbyterian Church of Canada, then, and in every such case, this Act shall apply to such united body of Presbyterians, under whatever name they shall have formed such union, and all the rights, powers and authorities by this Act vested in the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, shall be vested in and applied to the Synod of such united body, under whatever name or designation such united body may be known.

13. That in case the said Presbyterian Church of Canada, or such united body as aforesaid, shall determine to form itself into two or more Synods, and to form one General Assembly, which shall have supreme jurisdiction in such Church or united body, then all the rights, powers, and authorities by this Act, vested in the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, or in the Synod of such united body as aforesaid, shall be diverted from the said Synod and be applied to, and be vested in such General Assembly. and for the purposes of this Act, such General Assembly or Supreme Court shall thenceforth exclusively exercise all the rights, powers, and authorities, conferred by this Act on the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

The Synod re-appointed the Committee as follows, viz.: Mr. Kemp, Convener, Messrs. Fraser, Redpath, Court, Reid, and Ferrier, instructing them to have the draft engrossed, and to take steps for having it brought before the Legislature.

The Synod appointed the above-named members, together with the Professors of the College, and Messrs. Scott, Ure, Gregg, Dr. Bayne, Dr. Irvine, Messrs. Wardrope, Laing, and A. Skinner, to be a Committee to draw up rules for the regulation and management of the College.

The Synod appointed the following Committee, viz.,—Messrs. T. Wardrope, the Moderator, the Clerk, Mr. S. C Fraser, Dr. Irvine, Mr. Archibald Young, Mr. Clark, and Mr. Ferrier; Dr. Irvine, Convener, to prepare a list of trustees whose names shall be inserted in the Act of Incorporation.

Duties of Principal of Knox College.

The following regulations were adopted *ad interim* respecting the duties of the Principal of Knox College, viz :—

1. That the title shall be "The Reverend the Principal of Knox College."

2. That he shall preside in all meetings of the Professors' Court, or College Senate, and shall summon such meetings at stated or convenient times.

3. That he shall preside at the public opening and closing of the College Session.

4. That he shall be the medium of communication with, and conduct the official correspondence of the Professors' Court or College Senate.

5. That he shall have a general superintendence of the studies of the Students in accordance with the instructions of the Senate; it being understood that the other Professors shall be responsible only to the Synod for the discharge of the duties entrusted to them.

Report of College Building Committee.

The Synod called for the Report of the College Building Committee. The same was given in and read. It appeared from the Report that there had been received, during the year, the sum of £1,851 1s. 8d., and that there had been expended the sum of £1,951 17s. 5d., including interest on purchase money unpaid; the cost of the additions to the College Buildings being £1,508 10s. 8d. The Synod agreed to receive and sustain the Report, and tender thanks to the Committee for their diligence. The Synod farther discharged the Committee, and remitted to the College Committee to take steps for visiting all the congregations, which have not yet contributed to this important object, and renewed their instructions to Presbyteries to co-operate with the College Committee in this matter.

Application in behalf of French Canadian Missionary Society.

The Synod then proceeded to take into consideration an application, previously made to the Synod, in behalf of the French Canadian Missionary Society, that the Synod would permit any minister of the Church, in the event of his being appointed General Secretary of the Society, to retain his status in the Church, and his connection with the Widows Fund. The Synod agreed not to grant the application.

Report of Committee on union.

The Synod then called for the Report of the Committee on Union with the United Presbyterian Church. The Report was given in by Mr. Ure, Convener of the Committee. The Report contained the following articles, as a basis of Union, and stated that these had been agreed to by the members of the Committees of both Churches :—

I. OF THE HEADSHIP OF CHRIST.

Articles &c.

"We maintain that the Lord Jesus Christ is the only King and Head of his Church; that the laws by which it is to be governed are contained only in the inspired Scriptures; that Christ hath made her free from all external or secular authority in the administration of her own affairs; and that she is bound to assert and defend this liberty to the utmost, and ought not to enter into any such engagements with any party whatsoever, as would be prejudicial to it."

II. LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE.

"We maintain that 'God is the only Lord of the conscience,' and that therefore every person ought to be at full liberty to 'search the Scriptures' for himself, and to follow out what he conscientiously believes to be the teaching of Scripture, without let or hindrance. But if any person, under the plea of liberty of conscience, presumes to disturb the peace of society, or to set aside the lawful authority of the magistrate, or to blaspheme the name of God openly and wantonly, or to disturb the public religious worship of his neighbor, we declare that these are abuses, which the magistrate ought to repress, both for the glory of God and the public weal."

Articles &c.

III. OF THE DUTIES OF THE CIVIL MAGISTRATE.

"We maintain that while the Civil Magistrate, as such, is not an officer of the Church of Christ, and may not therefore assume any ecclesiastical functions, or claim the power to act as an interpreter of the Word of God, or as an administrator in matters spiritual and ecclesiastical, he has yet an important part to act in his official capacity in relation to the Kingdom of Christ; that it is his duty in his public as well as in his private capacity, to acknowledge the authority of Christ as the Supreme Governor among the nations; and that in this view, without taking cognizance of offences against morality considered as sins against God, he ought to see that, in aiming to promote the social well-being in subordination to the divine glory, the laws of the land in their enactment and administration are avowedly in accordance with the principles of justice and morality inculcated in the Scriptures. At the present time we think it necessary especially to declare that he is bound to acknowledge the divine authority of the Christian Sabbath, and to secure to all his subjects their right to enjoy the sacred rest of that day."

It was moved by Dr. Bayne, seconded by Mr. McLaren,

Dr. Bayne's motion.

"That the Synod find with great satisfaction, that the views of the Committee of the United Presbyterian Church on the great principle that it is the duty of the civil Magistrate in his official as well as his private capacity, to acknowledge the authority of Christ as the Supreme Governor among the nations, and that in aiming to promote the social well-being, he ought to see that the laws of the land are avowedly in accordance with the principles inculcated in the Word of God, are the same with those of his Church; rejoice in the prospect thus opened up that a union of the respective Synods may soon be realized; re-appoint the committee, with instructions to confer farther with the committee of the United Presbyterian Church, as to the agreement of their views in respect to the practical application of the principle referred to, and the prospect there would be of united action in carrying out this principle in the event of a union of the Churches, and report to the next meeting of Synod."

The hour of adjournment having come, the Diet was closed with prayer.

SEVENTEENTH SESSION.

TUESDAY, 16*th June*, 3 *o'clock*, *P. M.*

The Synod again met and was constituted with prayer.

The minutes of last Diet were read and sustained.

Subject of union resumed.

The Synod resumed consideration of the Report of the Committee on Union with the United presbyterian Church.

It was moved by Mr. Kemp in amendment to Dr. Bayne's motion, and seconded by Mr. Doak,

Mr. Kemp's motion.

"That the Synod receive the Report of the Union Committee; express their gratification at finding such full harmony on the views of the two sections of the joint-committee on the doctrines and principles, the expression and understanding of which have hitherto kept the United Presbyterian Church and ourselves apart; declare their adherence generally to the articles in said Report, and adopt them as a basis upon which union may be effected;—re-appoint the committee and remit said articles to them with instructions to mature still farther the terms and conditions of union, and report to next Synod;—send said articles down for the consideration of the Presbyteries who shall report to the Union Committee on or before the 31st of May next; recommend in the meantime that the Presbyteries and Sessions of the Church hold fraternal intercourse and conference with the Presbyteries and Sessions of the United Presbyterian Church."

Amendment withdrawn.

After discussion, Mr. Kemp, with permission of the house, withdrew his motion, when Dr. Bayne's was adopted by the Synod.

Committee re-appointed.

The Committee on Union was re-appointed as follows, viz.,—Messrs. Ure, Lowry, Dr. Willis, Dr. Burns, Messrs. Laing, McLaren, Inglis, and Duncan, Ministers; and Messrs. Heron, and Young, Elders—Mr. Ure, Convener.

Report on Statistics.

The Synod afterwards called for the Report of the Committee on Statistics. The same was given in and read by Mr. S. C. Fraser, Convener. From the Report it appeared that there were now 124 ministers, and upwards of 14000 communicants. A considerable number of congregations and amongst these some large ones had failed to send any return. The amount reported as contributed for ecclesiastical purposes was £37,000.

It was agreed to receive and sustain the Report and return thanks of the Synod to the Convener. It was also resolved, that Mr. Fraser's expenses should be paid out of the Synod Fund.

Committee on Statistics.

The Committee on Statistics was re-appointed as follows, viz., Mr. S. C. Fraser, Convener, Messrs. Reid, Gregg, James Smith, D. Wardrope, Court, and Hay.

The following persons were appointed by the Synod as Trustees of 'Knox College' in terms of the Draft of Act of Incorporation:—

Trustees for Knox College.

Messrs. Charles Allan, George Brown, William Clark, James Court, John R. Dickson, M. D., Alexander D. Ferrier, William Gregg, James Gibb, William Heron, George Hay, David Inglis, Andrew Jeffrey, Alexander F. Kemp, Thomas Lowrie, Morris C. Lutz, Donald McLellan, James Osborne, John Redpath, John Scott, Andrew Smith. James Stewart, James Walker, Principal Willis, Archibald Young; J. Osborne, Chairman.

The hour of adjournment having come, the Diet was closed with prayer.

EIGHTEENTH SESSION.

TUESDAY, 16th *June*, 7 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Synod again met, and was constituted with prayer, praise, and the reading of the Word.

The minutes of last Diet were read and sustained.

Report regarding registration of Marriages &c.

On Tuesday evening the Committee on the subject of the Registration of Births, Marriages, &c., reported. The Report was received and the Committee re-appointed.

The Committee appointed to prepare a series of standing orders for the ordering of the business of the house, reported the draft of a set of rules. The Synod sustained the report and adopted as the standing orders of the house, the rules prepared by the Committee.

Standing orders.

The following are the standing orders agreed to:—

I. As to Papers to be transmitted to the Clerk previous to the Meeting of Synod.

1st. Certified Rolls of each Presbytery shall be sent up by its respective Clerk, so as to be in the hands of the Clerk of Synod at least eight days before that on which the Synod meets.

2ud. All Overtures from Presbyteries, or Presbyteries' returns to Overtures, or papers in cases intended to be transmitted to the Synod through the Committee of Bills, shall be sent in to the Clerk of Synod at least one day before the meeting of Synod; said Overtures or returns shall be in the form of certified extracts from the minutes of the Presbytery by which it is transmitted; it being understood, however, that this order shall not be considered as dispensing with the attendance of parties at the meeting of Committee.

II. As to the Committee of Bills and Overtures.

1st. The Committee of Bills and Overtures shall be appointed by the Synod at its first session, and shall meet on the evening of that day, and also on the morning of the second and third days of meeting, half-an-hour before the meeting of Synod.

2nd. The Committee of Bills shall see that all papers presented to them in cases from Inferior Courts, whether forming part of the record, or produced in evidence before said courts, have been duly numbered and certified by the Clerk of said court; and said committee shall not receive any paper which is not so authenticated, unless upon special cause shewn, to be reported by them to the Synod.

III. As to the Synod.

1. DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES.

1st. The second diet of the Synod's meeting shall be chiefly spent in devotional exercises, and such portion of the time of other diets as the Moderator of Synod shall think proper.

2. BUSINESS COMMITTEE.

The Synod shall, at its first diet, appoint a Committee, which may be the Committee of Bills and Overtures, to arrange the business of the Court; said Committee shall meet on the morning of the following day, and be prepared to make their report to the Synod immediately after the Report of the Committee on Bills and Overtures shall

Standing Orders continued.

have been read. And farther, the Business Committee shall report from time to time to the Synod, until the whole business shall have been disposed of.

3. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF SYNOD.

The reports of all Committees severally authenticated by the Convener of each Committee shall be lodged with the Clerk immediately after they have been read to the Synod, and shall be kept *in retentis*, to be preserved among the other documents of the Synod.

4. THE CONDUCTING OF CASES.

In no case shall there be more than two speeches for each party at the bar, including the reply to which the appellant or complainer shall be entitled. And where there are more than two parties, there shall only be one speaker, and one speech for each, besides the reply; it being understood that where there are more than one complainer, each shall be considered as a different party only in case of its appearing to the Synod that the complaints rest upon distinctly separate grounds.

5. MOTIONS AND VOTES.

1st. Every motion, whether original or amende shall be given in to the Clerk in writing, as soon as it shall have been made to the House.

2nd. When a motion is duly seconded, and in possession of the Synod, it shall not be altered without the permission of the House.

3rd The person who makes the first motion shall be entitled to the privilege of giving a reply, in which new matter must not be introduced; thereafter the debate shall be held to be definitely closed, and no person shall be entitled to speak, excepting with regard to the manner of putting the vote.

4th. All motions after the first shall be considered as amendments on the first, and disposed of accordingly.

5th. When there are only two motions before the House, the question put to the vote shall be "*motion* or *amendment*" or "*first* or *second* motion."

6th. When there are three motions, the first question shall be, whether the second or third shall be put as the amendment against the first; and the second question shall be, whether the first motion on the amendment so fixed, shall be the decision of the House.

7th, When there are more than three motions, the first question shall be, whether the last proposed shall be put as the amendment, and so on till only three remain, when the procedure shall be as described in the previous order.

6. DISSENTS.

Dissents from any deliverance of the Synod shall not be given until the matter to which they refer be disposed of, and the House is ready to proceed to other business.

7. LETTERS ADDRESSED TO THE MODERATOR.

All letters addressed to the Moderator for the purpose of being communicated to the Synod, shall, in the first instance, be laid before the Business Committee, who shall advise the Moderator as to the way of disposing of them.

8. DEPUTATIONS TO THE SYNOD.

Deputies from other Churches and from Societies shall, on their arrival, give in their commissions or letters of introduction to the Clerk

of the Synod, who shall report the same to the Business Committee, that arrangements be made for receiving them at a convenient time. Standing orders continued.

9. APPOINTMENT OF SYNOD'S COMMITTEES.

The former Moderators of Synod, who may be in attendance, shall constitute a Committee, which the Moderator may consult as to the persons whom he should nominate on those Committees which the House may have required him to construct.

10. MEETINGS OF COMMITTEE DURING THE SYNOD'S MEETING.

No Committee shall continue to sit after the Moderator shall have taken the chair, at any diet of the Synod's meeting, unless the special permission of the Synod shall have been obtained to that effect.

The Rev. Dr. Taylor and the Rev. W. Ormiston, delegates from the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church then proceeded to address the Synod. Dr. Taylor and Mr. Ormiston address the Synod.

On motion made and seconded, it was unanimously agreed—

"That the thanks of the Synod be tendered to these deputies through the Moderator, and that the Rev. J. Scott, and the Rev. T. Wardrope, be appointed to attend the next meeting of the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church, and reciprocate the christian greetings of these brethren." Deliverance of Synod.

The thanks of the Synod were accordingly tendered to the deputies by the Moderator.

The Committee appointed to examine the Public Accounts, reported that they had examined the Books of the Agent of the Church, and found the accounts correctly kept. The report was received and sustained. Report of Committee on Accounts.

The Agency Committee reported. Their report was received and sustained. The Synod ordered the public accounts of the Church henceforth to close on the 1st May. The Synod reappointed the Committee with the additon of Mr. Gregg, Mr. King, Mr. Ross, Mr. Clark, and Mr. Court; Mr. Gregg, Convener, in absence of Dr. Burns, instructing them to give their attention specially to the financial arrangements of the Synod, and to report at next meeting of Synod. Report of Agency Committee.

The Synod appointed Mr. Ross, Convener, Mr. Scott, Mr. Clark, Mr. Doak, and Mr. Young, to enquire into the position of the Buxton Mission, and to report to Home Mission Committee, more especially with reference to its financial state and the amount of responsibility which should be undertaken by the Synod. Committee on Buxton Mission.

The Synod appointed the quarterly collections as in former years, viz.: Quarterly collections appointed.

French Canadian Missionary Society on the 3rd Sabbath of July.

Buxton Mission and Synod Fund, on the 3rd Sabbath of October.

Foreign Mission, on the 2nd Sabbath of January.

Widows' and Orphans' Fund, on the 3rd Sabbath of March.

The Synod adjourned to meet to-morrow at half-past nine, and the Diet was closed with prayer.

NINETEENTH SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, 17*th June*, 9½ *o'clock*, *A. M.*

The Synod again met and was constituted with prayer, praise, and the reading of the Word.

The minutes of last Diet were read and sustained.

Commission to Dr. Burns.

The Synod, understanding that Dr. Burns had the prospect of being present at the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, agreed to authorise and commission him to appear in behalf of this Synod, with the view of conveying the christian regards of this church to the church in Ireland, aud of giving information in regard to the spiritual destitution of this Province.

Report on Sabbath Schools.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools presented their report through Mr. Gregg, Convener. There was also brought before the Synod, an overture on the subject of Sabbath Schools. It was agreed to receive the report, commend the diligence of the Committee, and approve of their recommendations, and instruct sessions to assist the Committee in the various matters entrusted to them. The Synod farther agreed to remit to the Committee the overture on Sabbath Schools.

The Synod re-appointed the Committee as follows, viz: Messrs. Gregg, Nisbet, Laing, Chambers, Burns, John Gray, ministers, and Dr. Holden, Messrs. Court, A. Fraser, and F. W. Torrance: Mr. Gregg, Convener.

Report on state of Religion.

The Synod called for the Report of the Committee on the State of Religion. The same was given in and read by Mr. Crombie *interim* Convener. It was agreed to receive and sustain the Report, re-appoint the Committee with Mr. Scott as Convener, and Mr. Chambers as corresponding member from the Presbytery of Kingston, in place of Mr. Pearce. The Synod farther remit to the Committee the recommendations contained in the Report, to be carried out at their discretion.

The Synod re-appointed the Committee as follows, viz:—

Dr. Burns, Dr. Willis, Messrs. McLeod, D. Fraser, Gregg, John Gray, Inglis, Ministers; Messrs. McMurrich, Court, Cattanach, Clark, Elders; Mr. Scott, Convener. The following Ministers were appointed Correspoding members in the various Presbyteries, viz.:—for Presbytery of Montreal, Mr. Crombie; for Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa, Mr. T. Wardrope; for the Presbytery of Kingston, Mr. Chambers; for Presbytery of Cobourg, Mr McKenzie; for Presbytery of Toronto, Mr. McTavish; for Presbytery of Hamilton, Mr. R. F. Burns; and for Presbytery of London, Mr. D. Walker, of Port Sarnia.

Report on Returns to Overtures.

The Synod called for the Report of the Committee appointed to examine and classify the returns of Presbyteries to the overtures sent down for their consideration by last Synod.—The report was given in and read. It appeared that in regard to the Overture on a Barrier Act, a majority of Presbyteries approved

of the principle, while some alterations were suggested in the expressions. It was agreed,

"That this overture should again be sent down, with certain alterations, for the consideration of Presbyteries, and that it be again passed as an interim act."

Overture on Barrier Act.

The following is the form in which the Overture is now sent down to Presbyteries:—

"Whereas it is of importance that all laws proposed, regarding matters of Doctrine, Discipline, Government, or Worship, should, before they are finally enacted, receive the patient and prayerful consideration of the Church, and

"Whereas it is manifestly impossible that such consideration can be given during the Session of one meeting of Synod; It is therefore humbly overtured to the very Reverend the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada:

1. "That no alteration shall be made by Overture or otherwise, in the Constitution of the Church on matters of Doctrine, Discipline, Government, or Worship, until first such alteration shall be submitted to all the Presbyteries of the Church for their approbation; that such approbation be given by each Presbytery at an ordinary meeting thereof; and that the decision of Presbyteries be recorded in the minutes, and an extract of the same be sent to the Clerk of Synod before its next meeting.

2. "That the Synod, if it see cause, may, by a majority of two-thirds of those present, pass such alteration or Overture into an Interim Act, which shall possess the force of a law, aye and until the Presbyteries have, as herein required, expressed their judgment upon it.

3. "When a majority of Presbyteries have expressed their approbation, the Synod may pass such Overture into a standing Law of the Church.

4. "That when a majority of the Presbyteries have expressed disapprobation, then the Synod shall reject such Overture, or again remit to Presbyteries."

Overtures on Management of Congregational matters,—and on the duties of Elders and Deacons.

In regard to the Overture on the management of congregational affairs, and the Overture on the duties of Elders and Deacons, it was found that a majority of Presbyteries disapproved of them, and therefore they were allowed to lapse.

Overture on Romish Baptism.

The Synod took up an Overture on the subject of the validity of Baptism in the Romish Church. The following was the deliverance of the Synod in this matter, viz:—

"The Synod considering the overture to involve matters of difficulty and doubt, and recognising the importance of the subject as bearing upon our testimony against the errors of the Church of Rome, send said overture to Presbyteries, to be by them considered and reported upon at next Synod."

Overture on subject of Intemperance.

The Synod then took up an Overture from several members of Synod on the subject of Intemperance; there was also read a Petition from the Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance. It was resolved,

"That taking into account the manifold and growing evils wrought by intemperance, the Synod renew its testimony against it,—resolve

as in former years to petition in favour of a Prohibitory Liquor Law, strongly recommend Presbyteries and Sessions to take similar action, to give increasing prominence to the great principles of temperance as inculcated in the word of God, and to employ all other means in their power to arrest the progress of this monster sin."

Memorial from Dr. John Mair.

The Synod then took up a memorial from Dr. John Mair of Kingston, on the subject of the use of intoxicating wine at the Lord's supper. The Synod agreed to refer the memorial to the Presbytery of Cobourg as a Committee together with Dr. Willis, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Inglis, to report at next meeting of Synod,

Petition from Rev. John McKay.

The Synod then took up a petition from the Rev. John McKay, Probationer, with reference to alleged balance of Salary due by the Presbytery of Montreal. It having been stated in behalf of the Presbotery of Montreal that the amount claimed would be paid, it was agreed that the petition should be allowed to be withdrawn.

Overture on Slavery.

The Synod then took up an Overture on the subject of slavery. The Synod approved of the Overture, and agreed to renew the resolutions of 1851, and appointed Dr. Willis, Dr. Burns, Dr. Bayne, Messrs. Reid, Ure, and Gregg, a committee on this subject: Dr. Willis, Convener.

Thanks to former Moderator.

The Synod unanimously agreed to present their thanks to the Rev. G. Cheyne, former Moderator, for the faithful manner in which he had discharged the duties of Moderator, and for his sermon at the opening of the Synod. The thanks of the Synod were tendered to M..Cheyne by the Moderator.

On motion made and seconded, it was agreed

Thanks to Office-bearers, &c.

"That the thanks of the Synod be given to the office-bearers of Chalmers' Church for the comfortable accommodation afiorded to the Synod during its session; also to the accommodation committee, the Rev. A. Wilson, and the friends in Kingston generally, for the hospitable manner in which they had received the ministers and elders of the Synod; and to the authorities of the Grand Trunk Railway for their liberality in granting return tickets to all the members of Synod."

Synod closed.

The business of the Synod being now concluded, after singing part of the 122nd Psalm, and prayer, the Moderator addressed the Synod in appropriate terms;—appointed the next ordinary meeting of Synod to take place in Hamilton, on the Tuesday after the second Sabbath of June, 1858, at half-past six P. M., and dismissed the Synod with the Apostolic blessing.

APPENDIX.

REPORT ON THE STATE OF RELIGION.

In presenting their Annual Report, the Committee on the State of Religion beg to notice, that in accordance with the recommendation of last Synod a series of monthly tracts has been prepared by ministers in various Presbyteries, and published through the agency of the Committee on Publication at Hamilton. These tracts have, upon the whole, been well received, and their circulation has amounted to 43,390, of which 1,546 have been circulated gratuitously. The tracts issued have been as follows, viz.:—

1. "The Church and the World," by Rev. D. Fraser, Montreal.
2. "Quench not the Spirit," by Rev. T. Wardrope.
3. "Salvation," by the Rev. D. Inglis.
4. "Prayer," by the Rev. Wm. Gregg.
5. On the "Work of the Spirit," by the Rev. J. McTavish.
6. On "Regeneration," by the Rev. W. McAlister.
7 and 8. On "Liberality" by the Rev. R. F. Burns.
9. On "The Sabbath," by the Rev. J. Alexander.

In accordance further with the recommendations of last Synod, seasons of conference and prayer have been held by the several Presbyteries, and it is believed by many of the Sessions and Deacons' Courts. From the Reports of the Corresponding Members of the various Presbyteries, the following particulars have been gathered regarding the state of religion throughout our Church:—

1st. As regards the state of family religion the Reports differ much. Two Presbyteries report, that family worship is not so regularly attended to as might be expected in so large a membership; another Presbytery reports that family worship is regularly maintained by most of the members, and by not a few of the adherents.

2nd. The Reports state that the religious training of the young is, upon the whole, attended to, either by parents or Sabbath School teachers, and all the reports speak favorably of Sabbath Schools throughout the Church, though in some of the Reports complaints are made of the tendency of parents to transfer their obligations to the Sabbath School teacher.

3rd. The Reports of the various Corresponding members state, that, while there is a vast amount of Sabbath desecration throughout the country, upon the whole, the Sabbath is observed by most of the members of our Church in a becoming manner; and all the Reports speak favorably of the attention and attendance of the people on the public means of grace, and that their liberality to religious and charitable objects is, upon the whole, satisfactory.

4th. Most of the Reports mention cases of hopeful awakening and conversion in individual cases, but there is a general complaint throughout the whole of them, that there is nothing like that wide-spread and extended revival which our ministers are longing for, and hope yet to be privileged to see.

Among the causes of the low state of religion the Reports mention the following:—over-engagement in wordly business—light amusement—satisfaction with the mere externals of religion—drinking usages—laxity of admission to sealing ordinances on the part of our own Church, and other denominations.

Many means are suggested in the various Reports, such as—1st, A more direct preaching of Christ, and earnest endeavors to reach the hearts and consciences of the hearers.

2nd. More faithful dealing with heads of families by Ministers and Kirk Sessions, regarding family worship.

3rd. A closer and more direct supervision of Sabbath Schools by Presbyteries.

4th. Frequent ministerial conferences for prayer and counsel among the members of the Church Courts.

The Report of your Committee is of a very varied character, and while it presents much that is hopeful in the state of religion throughout our Church, and a few tokens of the Lord's presence in our midst, at the same time it exhibits much to call for humiliation on the part of office-bearers and people, and the necessity of earnest persevering efforts after a revival of religion.

In conclusion your Committee would humbly

submit the following recommendations to this Synod for adoption.

1st. That the monthly tracts be continued; and that every effort be made to adapt them to the state and wants of our people.

2nd. That Presbyteries be directed to follow out, as far as practicable, the repeated recommendations of the Synod regarding the Presbyterial visitation of the different congregations within their bounds, and that Kirk Sessions be enjoined to exercise faithful discipline towards applicants for admission to sealing ordinances.

3rd. That while united fervent prayer for a revival of religion is employed, and concerts among the brethren, for that purpose, formed and encouraged, your Committee recommend the continuous preaching of the Word on week-days by two or more of the brethren, as a means for stirring up the careless within and without the Church, and that the same decency and order be observed which commonly distinguish our Sabbath services.

4th. That the state of religion occupy a higher place in the attention of the Church Courts; and that the Reports of the Corresponding members in the various Presbyteries be transmitted to the Convener before the meeting of Synod, in order that the Report and conference on the state of religion may be taken up by the Synod at one of its earlier sessions.

JOHN CROMBIE, *Convener, P. T.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN MISSION.

The Committee to whom the Synod entrusted the oversight of its Foreign Mission for the past year, desire with all humility to congratulate the Minister and Elders in Synod assembled, on the privilege conferred on our church by her great Head, of being permitted to co-operate with other Churches and Christian Societies, in employing means for the evangelization of heathen lands. The promise of our covenant,—God to his Son, our Redeemer, contemplates the uttermost parts of the earth, becoming the possession of Him who "came and preached peace to them who were far off, and to them that were nigh." The subjects of Christ's Kingdom contemplate the issue with joyful feelings, and cordially labour for its accomplishment.

Immediately after the last meeting of Synod, your Committee took the necessary steps to give effect to the invitations, which the Synod agreed to give to the Rev. Messrs. Stevenson and Laing, to proceed to India as Missionaries from this Church. The Committee regret that the services of one of these Brethren have not become available for the object contemplated;—the Presbytery of Toronto having declined to loose Mr. Laing from the pastoral charge of the Congregation of Scarboro for the reasons stated in the following deliverance of that Presbytery:—"That, considering, as appears from the statements made by the representatives of the Congregation of Scarboro', that the Lord has been, especially for the last few months, honoring the labors of Mr. Laing in a very marked manner in his present sphere of labour; considering also the very strong opposition made by them to his removal from them; and considering further that though his sense of the importance of the Foreign Mission field is not altered, and he is quite willing to leave the whole matter in the hands of the Presbytery and enter cheerfully on the duties of the Foreign Mission, if set apart for that work, he feels the importance of those considerations which operate on the minds of the Presbytery; the Presbytery believing that the Synod did not intend to enjoin them to loose Mr. Laing without regarding any statement that he or his congregation might make before the Presbytery, as indicated in that the Synod merely call and invite Mr. Laing to enter on the Foreign Mission work, find that it is inexpedient in the circumstances to loose him from his present sphere." Your Committee were more successful in seeking to obtain Mr. Stevenson. The Presbytery of Stirling promptly agreed to further the Synod's object, and placed him at the disposal of his church. Your Committee desire to acknowledge with gratitude the deep interest which many of the friends in Scotland have taken in this Missionary scheme of our Church, and also the important services rendered to the Synod, by the Rev. Mr. Scott of London, when presenting the call to Mr. Stevenson before the Church court in Scotland.

On the first day of February 1857, your Missionary arrived at Calcutta, where he and his wife received a cordial welcome from Dr. Duff, and the other friends of the Free Church Mission at that station. After spending two weeks there in holding sweet counsel with those brethren and others of the Church, London, and Baptist Missions, he proceeded to Bancoorah, a place about 120 miles distant from Calcutta, and which had been suggested by Dr. Duff and other friends as a suitable field for the Mission of this Church, it being at the same time unoccupied by other Missionaries, and also so near to Calcutta, through the facilities of railroad travelling, that our dear brother, though really separated from Christian brethren, would be so conveniently situated that he could have their counsel when it might be needed. Other places had been spoken of, such as Dacca in Eastern India and Lucknow in Oude, but it was considered better in the first instance to commence operations in a place in some measure suited to the Missionary strength of our Church. Mr. Stevenson entered immediately on the study of the Bengali language. He also opened a school for giving instruction in Christianity through the medium of the English language among those natives who are engaged in learning that language. Your Committee desire to bless God that thus at least *a beginning* has been made by this Church in proclaiming God's authority among the heathen in such terms as the ancient prophet was instructed to employ, "I am the Lord; that is my name; and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images."

It is however with feelings of sorrow and humiliation, your Committee would state that according to the latest information from Bancoorah, our brother has, at the very commencement of his work, been exposed to trials which no doubt are intended by an infinitely wise and gracious God, to be trials of faith. Cholera has visited Bancoorah to such an extent that the Government school has been dismissed for a season, and the use of the school-house in which Mr. Stevenson met with about 30 young men who are studying the English language for the purpose of teaching the doctrines of Christianity, has been withdrawn owing to the complaints made to the officials of Government by the guardians of the young men who came to his lecture. Do not these circumstances demand of us continued and earnest supplications at a throne of grace, that our brother may have "help in every time of need?"

Finally, as your Committee have been enabled to refrain from making any special appeal to the Church for the meeting of expenses attendant on the establishment of a Foreign Mission, ought not the Church to concentrate its efforts in sustaining in all possible efficiency the Mission at Bancoorah, and in enabling Mr. Stevenson to employ another native teacher, whenever it may be proper to do so?—Let the Church plead with Him who "has in his right hand the seven stars," that He would raise up his own instruments for doing this important work, and let each individual of our Church,—especially her ministers and licentiates, carry to the throne of God the self-denying inquiry, "Lord, what wilt *thou* have me to do?"

THOS. LOWRY, *Joint Convener.*

Kingston, June 10th, 1857.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON COLPORTAGE AND PUBLICATION.

The Committee met immediately after the meeting of last Synod, and proceeded to take up the suggestions of the Report presented to last meeting, and approved by that Court.—After mature deliberation, it was agreed to proceed to the election of an agent. The only person whose name was proposed, was the Rev. W. Inglis, a minister without charge of the United Presbyterian Church. Mr. Inglis being known to several of the members of the Committee, they spoke favourably of him as a person likely to prove suitable for the office.—It was thereupon agreed that he be appointed to the office of agent at a salary of £200 per annum, with a free house in connection with the depository. A committee was appointed to select books, who reported at a subsequent sederunt, and the Convener was directed to order the books. An Executive Committee was also appointed for the purposes defined in the constitution.

Mr. Inglis accordingly entered upon the duties of his office—a house was hired as a depository—the books were ordered—and arrangements were made to prosecute the work vigorously.

But your committee regret to state that the history of our effort for the next three months is one of progress from bad to worse. Rumours reached the ears of the Executive Committee of dissatisfaction with the action of the Committee—and at length one Presbytery passed a resolution condemning the action of the Board. The Executive Committee met and agreed that it would be highly inexpedient to proceed in the face of this opposition; and it was agreed to defer all action on the applications for employment as Colporteurs, and that no further steps be taken till the next meeting of the Committee. When the Committee met, it was agreed to stay all proceedings till the mind of the Church could be ascertained; and the Convener was directed to write to the Presbyteries explaining their position, endeavouring to remove misapprehensions and asking the ad-

vice of the Presbyteries as to their future action.

To the letters most of the Presbyteries replied; and at the next meeting of the Committee those replies were read, and the Committee unanimously agreed to dispense with the services of an agent, and to obtain a Colporteur who should devote a small part of his time to the business of the depository. Accordingly, arrangements were made with Mr. Inglis, who retired from his office, the Board voting him the sum of £100. Mr. S. Armstrong, formerly a Colporteur within the bounds of the Hamilton Presbytery, was employed at a salary of £90 per annum, his travelling expenses being paid. The depository was removed to a small room at an exceedingly moderate rent. The Convener was directed to write to the publishers to whom we were indebted, asking indulgence as to the time when their bills should be paid, and we have to express our gratitude for the kindness of those gentlemen in this respect.

The progress of our effort from this time has been encouraging. Mr. Armstrong has laboured in the bounds of three Presbyteries, has been everywhere kindly received, and has been eminently successful in circulating our books. He has been employed in Colporteur work 138 days; has visited 900 families; has held religious conversation, or engaged in devotional exercises with upwards of 400. He has sold 2168 books—98 copies of the Scriptures, of which 12 were family Bibles; and a large number of Catechisms and Confessions of Faith, together with Tracts, Pictures, Cards, &c.

The following table will present a view of Mr. Armstrong's labours:—

Average number of families visited per day	7
" Value of books sold each day	£1 7s. 4d
" Number of books sold each day,	15¼.

Mr. Gillies and Mr. Cameron, have also been engaged in the sale of books; they receive a per centage on sales.

Your Committee have only to add, that notwithstanding the three months during which nothing was done while large expenses were incurred, there is only a balance of liabilities over assets to the amount of £82 17s. 10d.—The expenses being more than met by the amount of £28 17s. 2d., of which were received as donations from churches and individuals the sum of £21 9s. 4½d., leaving £7 7s. 9½d. of actual profit on sides over expenses, for the last 9 months.

The Committee respectfully submit this report and leave the whole matter with all confidence in the hands of the Synod.

D. Inglis, *Convener.*

REPORT OF HOME MISSION COMMITTEE OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MAY, 1857.

In the Report presented to the Synod last year, it was stated that there were 55 organized congregations, and 33 stations, requiring supply.

During the year now past, 21 pastoral settlements have taken place, viz., in the Presbytery of London, of Rev. Mr. Findlay, at Mitchell; Mr. Troup at Plympton; Mr. McMullen at Mornington; Mr. Young at St. Thomas; Mr. McMillan at Fingal; Mr Straith at Tilbury; Mr. Forrest at Ridgetown; Mr. Rennie at Beachville; and Mr. Beattie at St. Mary's. In the Presbytery of Hamilton four ministers have been settled, viz., Mr. Jamieson at Dunnville; Mr. McLean at West Puslinch; Mr. Hogskin at Doon and New Hope; Mr. Geikie at Berlin. In the Presbytery of Toronto four ministers have been settled, viz., Mr. Mitchell at Milton and Boston Church; Mr. Swinton at Markham; Mr. Lowry at Whitby; and Mr. Sharp at Rear of Whitby and Reach. In the Presbytery of Kingston two settlements have taken place, viz., of Mr. Hume at Huntingdon and Syendinaga, and Mr. Wishart at Madoc. In the Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa, Mr. Smith has been settled at Brockville, Mr. Melville at Edwardsburgh, and Mr. McMeekin at Pembroke. Of these settlements in the several Presbyteries, two or three have been merely translations from one charge to another within the bounds of the same Presbytery, and thus have been no real addition to the effective strength of the ministry.

The following are the vacancies and stations requiring supply in the several Presbyteries, viz., in the Presbytery of Montreal, 2 vacant charges, viz., 1 St. Therese, St. Eustache and Grand Freniere; and 2 Martintown and Williamstown; and 7 Stations requiring supply, viz., Richmond, Laguerre, Lingwick, Kenyon, Grenville and Harrington, Finch, and Chateauguay Basin. Seven Missionaries at present supply these vacancies and stations.

In the Presbytery of London there are organized congregations vacant or requiring Pastors, 14; and 14 stations besides where congregations have not yet been organized, but

where a constant supply of preaching is required. All the organized congregations are looked upon as self-sustaining, and 2 of the stations, so that in this Presbytery alone, 16 pastors might be settled almost immediately.

In the Presbytery of Hamilton there are reported five congregations which may be viewed as self-sustaining and ripe for settlement, viz., Woolwich, Niagara, Jarvis and Walpole, Allansville, Grimsby and Clinton. One of these congregations has just given a call to a minister. Six mission stations or rather groups of stations, for in several cases three congregations at least are connected, are also mentioned, viz., Arthur, where 3 churches are being built—Mount Forrest with adjoining stations where there are also 3 churches in course of erection—Durham, with East Durham, Rocky Saugeen and Glenelg, connected with which stations there are also 3 churches being built—Sullivan and Derby forming a regular field—Minto—Sydenham.

The Presbytery of Toronto report that during the past year new missionary ground has been broken in four townships, viz., Adjala, Osprey, Artemesia, and Holland. In the Presbytery, besides Knox's Church, Toronto, (Cooke's Church having called the Rev. W. Gregg) there are fourteen localities looking to the Presbytery for supply, each embracing from 2 to 4 stations. Of the fourteen, 7 may be regarded as ripe for settlement. The Presbytery have been lately adopting steps, by the issuing of a set of queries to obtain more full information in regard to the wants of the field committed to them and of the circumstances of the several congregations and stations.

In the Presbytery of Cobourg there are two organized congregations which for a time have been seeking the settlement of pastors, but both have in the meantime called ministers.—Besides these there are 2 mission stations requiring supply, viz., 1. Bethesda Church and Alnwick, and 2, Smithtown, which receives supply from Rev. John Roger of Peterboro'.

In the Presbytery of Kingston there is one vacancy, Chalmer's Church, Kingston, without counting Belleville, which has now to be added. There is also a group of stations in the neighbourhood of Kingston which may be regarded as almost if not altogether in a self-sustaining state.

In the Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa, there are 4 vacancies, viz., Ramsay, Kemptville, Osgoode and Russell, and Westport. There are also 3 other stations, or groups of stations nearly self-sustaining, one of them at least entirely so. These are, 1 Cumberland and Lochaber—2 Fort Coulonge and Westmeath—3 Yonge and North Augusta. No new stations have been opened during the year, but the newly formed settlements to the north are engaging the anxious thoughts of the Presbytery.

It will thus appear that without taking into account a few congregations which have called or are just preparing to call ministers, there are about 34 organized congregations requiring pastoral labour, and nearly 40 stations besides where supply is necessary.

At present about fifty Probationers and Students are employed throughout the several Presbyteries, supplying the congregations and stations referred to, but a very considerable proportion of these are students who have not finished their Theological studies.

Two or three Probationers have come to us from Scotland, and one or two from Ireland during the past year. From the circumstance that several of our ministers have visited Scotland particularly during the year, whose attention was directed a good deal to the obtaining of ministers for Canada, and that so few have been led to come to our help—we are more and more shut up to the conviction that it is to our own young men to whom we are mainly to look for our future supply.—We state with pleasure however that some ministers of experience and standing are expected soon. Mr. Alexander, formerly of Cobourg, has just arrived and will no doubt be welcomed back to this scene of his labours for many years. Several students have come, and some others are expected.

There is one point connected with our Home Mission work which claims the attention of the Synod, and which no doubt will be brought before the notice of the Synod at its present meeting. We refer to the necessity of considering the position of some congregations most important in many points of view, but numerically and financially weak. There are not a few congregations, in various localities, but principally in the Eastern section of the Church where it is of the highest importance to have influential ministers, but where the congregations themselves are not able to sustain an efficient ministry. We feel the difficulty of that question, but it is one which demands the cautious but serious consideration and action of the Synod.

Another question which may require ere long to be considered is the question as to the claims which Probationers once in the service of the Home Mission Committee have on its

continued employment. In other words, is the Home Mission Committee, or the Presbyteries of Church bound to give appointments to all who are received as Probationers of this Church?—And if there is any obligation, how long does it continue? It is right to state to the Synod that no case has occurred as yet, where this question has become necessary. But it is a question which may, in our circumstances, force itself upon our consideration.

It is a question too whether the Synod should modify, or alter the regulations requiring all ministers not regularly called, to labour as missionaries for one year before being inducted into pastoral charges.

During the past year, the Convener in consequence of a correspondence with Rev. Mr. Bonar, obtained the services of one of the Gaelic-speaking ministers of the Church to visit a Gaelic settlement in Illinois. The people at this place (Elmira,) had been corresponding with Mr. Bonar for several years with the view of obtaing a Gaelic Minister, without success. The minister who visited these interesting people was Mr. McDiarmid, who spent three or four Sabbaths with them in the course of last October. His visit was most gratefully received, and the people have earnestly requested the visit of a gaelic-speaking minister, even if it were for one sabbath in the course of a year.

It is only necessary to state in a concluding sentence, that lately a legacy of one hundred pounds, H. Cy., (the first which to our knowledge has been left to the Schemes of the Presbyterian Church of Canada,) was left for the Home Missions of this Church by the late Mrs. Fergusson of Woodhill, which bequest was handsomely paid by the Hon. Adam Fergusson without the deduction of legacy duty, and with the interest accruing from the period of its having become payable. It is for the Synod to say how this amount shall be appropriated, whether it shall be made the nucleus of a fund for assisting struggling congregations, or mission stations, or in some other way which may be regarded as more likely to prove ultimately useful to the church.

W. Reid, *Convener.*

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

The Committee beg to report that in accordance with instructions of Synod they have issued a second series of Sabbath School Lessons, and propose to issue a third with somewhat more extended notes than those in the first and second.

They contemplate also the publication of a small monthly periodical for Sabbath School scholars. They think that much good, especially in connection with our mission schemes, may result from such a publication, if adapted to the particular wants of our Sabbath School children.

The Committee moreover contemplate issuing a series of Questions to the different Congregations, with a view to obtaining more accurate statistics in regard to Sabbath Schools, and fuller information respecting the mode in which they are conducted, and eliciting suggestions as to any improvements which might be introduced. From the materials thus procured a valuable report might be presented to the Synod.

The Committee would earnestly renew the recommendation that ministers should at least twice-a-year preach sermons specially adapted to children. They have reason to know that much good has already resulted from such sermons, and therefore anticipate still greater good from a more general adoption of this course.

William Gregg, *Convener.*

Kingston, C. W., 13th June, 1857.

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BUXTON MISSION, PRESENTED AT THE MEETING OF SYNOD IN KINGSTON, 16th JUNE, 1857.

In presenting the Seventh Annual Report to the Synod, we, first of all, desire to acknowledge with gratitude, our obligations to the Great Head of the Church, for the measure of success with which he has crowned our labours during the past year.

Although the season that has just gone by has been one of great commercial distress, and both the mission and settlement have felt the pecuniary embarrassment, still we have to record a gratifying progress in all departments of the mission work, and particularly in the spiritual part of the work, there has been a deep religious awakening. It was first observed in the beginning of winter, in the Sabbath School, afterwards it extended to the Church and settlement. Since that time there has been a marked increase in the attendance, both of the Sabbath and week-day meetings, and especially of the Bible-classes and prayer-meetings. A brief review of our past labours

will show how far the mission has accomplished the object for which it was instituted. It will be necessary to advert to the two departments of the work as they appear to be imperfectly understood. They are known as the Elgin Association, and the Buxton Mission; the one is secular, and the other is spiritual. With the secular this Synod has nothing to do; its affairs are managed by a Board of Directors, who meet in Toronto, and publish Annual Reports of their proceedings. The object of that department is to provide the colored families with homes, and improve their social condition. It will be gratifying to those who have taken an interest in the Association to know, that since the first settler entered on the lands in December, 1849, till the present time, two hundred families have been provided with homes, covering fifteen square miles of country and numbering about eight hundred souls. (See Annual Reports of Elgin Association.)

The Church was organized in December, 1849, with only four members and twenty hearers, now there are fifty members and two hundred hearers, when the roads are good, and the weather fine. The Sabbath School was opened three months after the Congregation was organized, with two scholars and one teacher; since that time, it has been carried on regularly with a gradual, but steady progress, and now numbers one hundred pupils, and eight teachers. The scholars have formed a mission society, and during the last two years have sent their collections to old Calabar, on the coast of Africa. Nearly all who are able to read, have committed the Shorter Catechism to memory, and have made considerable advancement in Scriptural knowledge; some, we trust, have been hopefully converted;—one has become a member of the Mission Church, and six more are now in the class of Catechumens, receiving religious instruction, with the view of becoming members of the Church. During the last year a greater interest has been felt, both in the Church and Sabbath School, on the great question of salvation. A number are now under deep conviction, and not a few have been brought to ask "What must I do to be saved."

The Day School was opened in May, 1850, with fourteen pupils, now there are ninety-eight on the roll. There are two teachers, a male and female. The boys are instructed in English, Latin, Greek, and Mathematics. The girls are taught the common branches of an English education, together with sewing; and such as desire it, the higher branches of a female education. Both in the male and female School the Bible is taught as a religious exercise, and a portion of their time is devoted to vocal music.

As one of the objects of the mission is to prepare young men for future usefulness, by giving them a good education, it requires this branch of the mission to be placed on a permanent and efficient basis; hitherto it has suffered much from a frequent change of teachers; this was in some measure unavoidable:—the teachers employed were students from Knox's College, and were under the necessity of retiring to complete their own studies. Although those teachers were good, and discharged their duties well while there, yet, having to change almost every six months, it has had a paralyzing effect on the efficiency of the School.

This defect we now hope will be remedied by the appointment of Mr. George Thompson, as a permanent teacher to the male department. Mr. Thompson has taught, for several years with great success, the Free Church School of Kintore, Aberdeenshire.

Since the opening of the Schools in 1850, two hundred and fifty pupils, male and female, have received their education, either in whole or in part. Of these, a large number remain in Canada, but some of them have gone to the United States, and Australia, where it is to be hoped that their religous training will make them useful members of society. I have already received favorable accounts from some of them. Two are now teaching with success in the Western part of the Province, others are preparing for the same field of labor. There is a class now learning Latin and Greek, some of them will enter College as soon as they are prepared. Two were ready to enter last November, but their parents being unable to support them at College, they were under the necessity of returning home. The same difficulty will be felt by the class now preparing, Of one of the boys farthest advanced, who is reading the second book of Virgil, the parents are in humble circumstances, and will not be able to support him at College. A Bursary Fund, capable of supporting two or three students, during their first and second years at College, would be a great boon. Unless some assistance be rendered to those, who with much difficulty have prepared themselves for College, very few will have the means to enter. Already have we seen two youths of piety and talents, turn reluctantly from College, because they had no means to enable them to enter. Unless this can be remedied one great object

of the mission will be frustrated, namely, the training of young men of piety and talents, for further usefulness in the Church. Never was there more need for such young men as at present. Already "the fields are white to harvest,"—the light is breaking in on the dark continent of Africa, from almost every direction. There is no portion of the heathen world that has yielded richer fruit, in proportion to the amount of missionary labour bestowed, or where there is a more urgent call for the extension of the work.

The Slave Trade is still carried on along the coast, notwithstanding the vigilance of the British navy. Nothing but the preaching of the everlasting Gospel will put an end to that inhuman traffic.

From the coast, and from the interior, the Macedonian cry is wafted to our ears, "Come over and help us!" We trust the cry will not be heard in vain, that means will be forthcoming to provide the men to carry the Gospel to their benighted countrymen.

In reviewing our past labors we have great reason to thank God for the measure of success which has already attended our efforts, encouraged by the past we would look for greater triumps in future, but above all we would look for the Divine blessing upon all our labors.

WILLIAM KING.

REPORT OF WIDOWS' FUND COMMITTEE FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MAY, 1857.

The principal items which the Committee have to report, are the following. During the past year the congregational collections have been £306 9s. 3½d., the amount arising from the payment of Minister's rates, £164, and from interest £229 9s. 10d. The total accumulated fund is now £5358 13s.

The number of annuitants is the same as last year, viz.. 7. Of the ministers who have been newly settled since last Synod, almost all have become contributors to the Fund. The fund is not to be regarded as having reached a position which renders far the efforts on the part of the Church unnecessary, but still it may be regarded as on the whole satisfactory, especially when compared with some similar schemes.

The committee regret to report that in consequence of the removal of John Fisher, Esq., Convener of the Committee from this Province, it will be necessary for the Synod to nominate another in his stead. Mr. Fisher has, from the commencement of the scheme, taken a deep personal interest in it, and is most justly entitled to the warmest thanks of the Synod.

There are two or three points on which it has occurred to the Committee that some full and explicit regulations may be necessary.—One of these points has reference to the qualification necessary to entitle a minister to the benefits of the Fund. Some misunderstanding has occurred as to whether a minister resigning his charge and accepting another situation, doing at the same time occasional missionary work, should still be entitled to the privileges of the Fund. It would be desirable to have a rule which could not be misunderstood. Another point has reference to those ministers who have been settled, perhaps shortly after 1st November. It is desirable to have it decided, whether in order to enable them to the privileges of the fund, they should pay their rate for the past year or not. According to the consitution of the scheme, no charge can be made in the regulations unless notice has been for at least two months. The Synod may either decide the points referred to or remit them, and any other points which may require consideration, to the Committee, in order that they may maturely consider them and give the requisite notice, in case it should be considered necessary or desirable to make any alteration in the regulations.

W. REID, *Secretary and Treasurer.*

COLLEGE REPORT.

The late Session, commencing on October 1st, was closed on April 1st, according to the alteration of times, agreed on at last Synod.

The Committee have to Report the attendance, in all, of about 60 students, including a few enrolled as prospective Theological students, though attending the University classes in the meantime. Both Professors and Students, favored by a kind Providence, were enabled to prosecute the labors and studies of the Session with generally, uninterupted health, —one case only occurred of a Student being obliged to withdraw his attendance, during the latter portion of the winter, from bodily debility.

The increased accommodation afforded within the College premises was fully taken advantage of by the students, and no more than sufficed for those who prefer this central Boarding house, to living apart in other

houses in the City. About (say) ten or twelve, however, provided themselves in this later way.

The number of students who have completed their curriculum, and have entered, or are in course of entering by license on the church's field of labour, is seven. This number, added to that of last year, makes an accession of thirteen in these two seasons to the labourers in our Provincial Vineyard. The numbers besides employed as Catechists under the Home Mission's directions, is nearly thirty. Though we may well say, what are these among so many? yet on another view of all circumstances, we recognise abundant ground to thank God and take courage. Estimating those still in course of prosecuting their preparatory studies, we may count, supposing their lives spared, and their purposes adhered to, an average during next five years, of seven to ten candidates annually offering for service in the church.

We cannot too early in this report recur to the subject of the Bursary Fund, and the necessity for additional exertions by the Presbyteries of the Church in its behalf. It is manifest, from the very difficulty in this time of increased prices, of arranging for a rate of Board, suited to the means of our young men,—that assistance is required to a greater extent than formerly, for those who offer for sudy, or whom the church, for its own sake, invites to enter on a course of preparation for the work, to which it may perceive in them some tokens of adaptation. The Committee is not so anxious to acquire funds which may be disbursed in the way of prizes awarded on competition; though that also may in some degree be profitably continued,—as to have the means in its power of encouraging the praiseworthy efforts of approved young men, whose aspirations to the calling of the Holy Ministry, are discouraged by their narrow circumstances.

And though there are exceptions, yet we may affirm of our offering candidates generally, that when withdrawn from their former vocations, they at least for a time require supplemental aid to the means they possess, or immediate relations can supply to them, while in preparation for the work they have in prospect. Nor, in view of the wants of our mission field, ought the one question to be, whether candidates possess or might derive from private sources, a sufficiency of worldly means to enable them to bear the outlay connected with their residence at College; but whether it is not for the greater good of the church to provide and offer what may counteract the discouragements, and determine the hesitancy of worthy aspirants, or save them from yielding to the alternative of embracing other professions, simply to avoid worldly embarrassment, or a dependence on the generosity of relations, often as disagreeable to students themselves, as, in some cases at least, unwelcome, if not inconvenient to their friends.

The retirement of the resident head of the Boarding house, at this term of the expiration of his engagement, leaves a vacancy in that important charge. And in some uncertainty on what conditions best to fill up the appointment, we have deferred taking any final step till the Synod's meeting. We have a few offers for the situation spontaneously made by parties, and other parties have been spoken of among ourselves. On the question whether the Head of the Boarding establishment should be limited to the duties and responsibilities of that domestic charge, or whether, if possible, some of the work of a tutor should be combined with it, considerable discussion has been held in the Committee. The opinion of most of us is in favour of an entire separation of those departments, on the supposition of a Tutor being employed. Should the Synod prefer to dispense altogether with any Tutorship, additional to the means of preliminary instruction provided at the University, or otherwise, the question will then reduce itself to one concerning a simple Stewardship, though our preference, it is presumed, will still be for some party, if he can be found, who combines with habits of business, qualifications for exerting a happy moral and spiritual influence over the inmates of our Students' Home.

The Synod has other means, besides this Report of knowing the Financial circumstances of the College. It appeared to the Committee in view of the accumulated expenditure required for the support of the Seminary, and the incomplete provision yet made to discharge the obligations of its Building Fund, that an extraordinary exertion had become necessary for supplementing our revenue; and encouraged by an offer of assistance from the parent country, they resolved, trusting to the Synod's approval, to delegate a deputation to visit to Britain, and solicit contributions more especially to the Building Fund, in each of the three kingdoms. On this errand, Dr. Burns, having had intentions at any rate of visiting Scotland, accepted the commission to solicit aid from presumed friends in Scotland and Ireland, and Mr. Fraser, of Cotè Street, Montreal, has proceeded to England,

his pulpit being meanwhile supplied by the brethren, and the consent of his Presbytery having been obtained.

One thing is apparent—the Treasury proves inadequate for the support of the present staff of Professors, at the same time that the value of their stipends, by the well proven change in the rate of living, has become less, much less than before. It is as unpleasant for them to feel their support a burden to the church, as it is more than ever incovenient for them to wait on the tardy payment of their allowances.

The Committee on the College Deed will report for themselves, and the only other point is that which pertains to the Examination of Students by Presbyteries. The Synod of last year appointed that each Presbytery should send to the College Committee a report on this subject; and the injunction has been complied with by the Presbyteries of Toronto, Montreal, and of Brockville and Ottawa; but not as yet from any others. It is important for obvious reasons that attention should be given to this very provision, necessary at once as a check on indiscriminate admission to the seminary, and a stimulus,—yet not less an encouragement to students at all stages of their course.

M. Willis, *Convener.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

The Sabbath question wears, in some respects, a more hopeful aspect than at any previous period in its history. It has again secured for itself a hearing in Parliament. Animated and lengthened discussions have been held in both Houses—the influence of which cannot fail to prove salutary. In the Lower House, Mr. Brown's Bill, like the Prohibitory Liquor Law, in a former Session, was lost by the casting vote of the Speaker. It had a majority in five distinct divisions;—the sixth, and final, division stood 53 to 53. This we regard as a decided step in advance. On the former occasion, on which this measure was tested, the members were 25 for, to 26 against it, so that in a House double the size it has gained ground. In the Upper House a Committee was appointed who submitted a Report in favor of abolishing Sabbath labor in the various public departments where it exists. Founded on this Report a resolution was introduced to address His Excellency the Governor General on the subject. Fifteen voted in favor of this resolution—ten against it.

The Parliamentary agitation has revealed the soundness of public opinion on the subject—the direction that opinion is taking—and the weight it possesses. Gratitude is due to those friends who have given their voices as well as their votes on the Sabbath side, and especially to the Hon. Adam Fergusson in the one House, and Mr. George Brown in the other, who have taken the lead.

Meetings have been held in various places at which resolutions favorable to the cause have been enthusiastically passed, and practical measures taken.

Many memorials have been sent to Government, bearing thousands of signatures.

The Press has lent its aid as well as the platform. In a large number of our Provincial journals, editorials and contributed articles have appeared very favorable to the cause, with a few exceptions. The tone of our newspapers on the question is healthy.

Your Committee have to report that the usual notice for simultaneons preaching on the Sabbath was published, and was, we have reason to believe, largely acted on. The attention of our Church has at different times been directed to the subject through the columns of the *Record*—specially in connection with the recent agitation.

Petitions have been sent by several Presbyteries and Sessions, and a tract on the Sabbath has been published in connection with our Synodical series.

In accordance with the instructions of last Synod, certain queries were addressed to Sessions like these, published in 1852, with the view of eliciting information as to the forms of Sabbath desecration most prevalent in the country, and the measures adopted for their suppression. To these several replies have been received, though not so many as would have been desired. The Committee think it may best serve the object of the Synod briefly to submit a few specimens of these answers.—(These may appear in a future number.)

Your Committee recommend,—

1st. That a Pastoral Address be published, having special reference to the forms of Sabbath desecration, as brought out in these answers—and affectionately urging the adoption of all feasible measures to secure its better observance.

2nd. Simultaneous preaching on the subject on the 3rd Sabbath in January—as heretofore.

3rd. A renewal of effort as speedily as possible, to obtain a stoppage of all labor on the Lord's Day, in the Post Office—on the Canals, and on Railways; and for this purpose

that the Synod, Presbyteries, and Sessions petition Parliament again.

4th. That local papers be taken advantage of by ministers and others to disseminate information on the subject, and to meet the assaults of adversaries.

5th. Special attention is called to a variety of other practical suggestions contained in the *Record*, and in Reports for a series of years past.

Your Committee are more deeply impressed than ever with the urgency of the Sabbath crisis. Amid much that is encouraging, there is not a little to produce painful apprehensions. The wholesale Sabbath desecration on the Great Western, and especially at the very spot which witnessed that tremendous catastrophe that spread lamentation, sorrowing and woe through our land. The proposal to open the Grand Trunk on the Sabbath—the indifference manifested by many in high places to its claims—the countless forms in which, domestically and socially, it is neglected—these and similar manifestations are well fitted to excite alarm, and to stimulate to redoubled exertion.

Adding to faith fortitude, let us prayerfully and perseveringly go forward, and the Lord of the Sabbath will, in his own good time and way, crown our efforts with success.

R. F. Burns, *Convener.*

REPORT OF KNOX COLLEGE BUILDING COMMITTEE.

The Committee beg to report to the Synod that, in accordance with the instructions of last Synod, they took immediate steps for the construction of the additions and changes which were agreed upon last year. These were all but completed at the time of the College opening in the beginning of October, and added greatly both to the extent and completeness of the accommodation for the students, although in the early part of the season, some inconvenience may possibly have been felt in consequence of the new apartments being so recently erected, and only partially seasoned. There has been received during the past year the sum of £1851 1s. 8d. and expended £1951 9s. 1d. The whole amount paid in liquidation of all charges for the new erection, has been £1508 10s. 9d., several extras being found necessary in the course of the execution of the work, which were not contemplated before. The work was superintended by Mr. Thomas, Architect.

The Committee, as instructed by the Synod, corresponded with Presbyteries with the view of obtaining the necessary funds, and appointed deputations to visit different sections of the church. A considerable amount was obtained, but a considerably larger sum is still needed. The interest on the purchase money remaining unpaid becomes due on the 1st July. The next instalment of the purchase money is not due until November, 1858, but there is a sum of £1500, which it is desirable to raise as soon as possible in order to secure the release of a previous mortgage on the property and put the title deed in a proper and secure position.—The lawyer employed by the Committee, advises the Committee to endeavour to raise this amount with as little delay as possible. Of course if this sum is paid now it will make the future payments so much the less. Were every Presbytery and Congregation to do its duty, event to the extent of the effort made by the Presbytery of London, throughout whose bounds a praiseworthy effort has been made, the amount might be obtained; but there appears to be little prospect immediately of such a result. Reference has been made in the Report of the College Committee to the visit of Dr. Burns and Mr. Fraser to Britain, with the view of obtaining some assistance for our College Building Fund. And the Committee would only farther say in reference to this point, that in their most decided opinion whatever may be obtained in this manner will be necessary, in addition to the result of our own efforts to relieve our present wants, and to give some relief at the same time to the ordinary College Fund, which has suffered this year to a considerble extent from the effort necessary to be made for the Building Fund. The Committee would, however, urge upon the Synod the adoption of some decided measure for the purpose of having all the Congregations within our own bounds thoroughly visited, for the advancement of an object so important to the Church, not only now, but through coming generations. The Committee, in conclusion, suggest to the Synod, now that the Buildings are completed, whether the ordinary College Committee might not be entrusted with the supervision of this object in addition to their more immediate duties.

W. Reid, *Convener.*

REPORT ON STATISTICS FOR 1857.

In presenting this Annual Report, the Committee are called on to explain the reason why it has not been laid on the table of the Synod

in a printed form. They have simply to state that the Returns came in so tardily, that it was impossible to draw up and present any thing like a satisfactory Report at the opening of the Synod; and they have preferred to crave the indulgence of the Synod for a little delay, to laying before it an imperfect Report. The Committee believe that the result has justified the course which they have pursued.

There are now on the Synod Roll 124 ministers, of whom *four* are connected with the College and Agency, and *two* are without charge. There are thus 118 settled in pastoral charges. Reports have been received from 99 of these charges, and also from a few vacant congregations and mission stations. It thus appears that there is a more full representation this year than on any former occasion. It is hoped that next year's Returns will be still more satisfactory, so that a full synopsis of the Church's affairs may be presented to the Synod and the Church at large.

No reports have been received from the following settled congregations, viz:—

Presbytery of Montreal, 5.—English River, Osnabruck, Winslow, Vankleekhill, Indian Lands.

Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa, 1.—*Pembroke.*

Presbytery of Kingston, 1.—*Madoc.*

Presbytery of Toronto, 4.—Chinguacousy, Acton, *Markham. Ashburn.*

Presbytery of Hamilton, 4.—Galt, Guelph, W. Puslinch. *Berlin.*

Presbytery of London, 6.—North Easthope, Woodstock, (Knox's Church), Blandford, *St. Mary's, Beachville, Mitchell.*

In all, 21 congregations. Of this number, *eight*, marked in italics, have been recently settled; and there remain, therefore, only 13 that have not given in Returns. There were last year 16 unrepresented; and the Committee believe that, considering the increase in the number of settled charges, there has been a most encouraging improvement.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

There is herewith presented, in a Tabular form, a view of the most important items brought under the notice of the Committee under the first heading in the printed schedules. There is not so great an increase in the membership as might be anticipated from the large increase in the number of settled congregations. This, apparently unsatisfactory, result may be accounted for, probably, on the ground that some large congregations that gave in returns last year have failed to do so this year. The additions to the various Communion Rolls are considerable, and in some instances of a most encouraging nature. A glance at the table will give every information on this interesting point:—

Presbyteries.	No. of Ministers.	No. of Members.	Increase in 1857	Congregational Libraries.	No. of Volumes in Cong'l Lib.	No. of Manses and Glebes.	Value of Manses and Glebes.	Value of Churches.
Montreal	17	1914	157	5	1035	5	1428	19715
Brockville and Ottawa	14	2145	96	5	790	5	1320	8150
Kingston	7	661	51	2	290	. .	. . . .	6800
Cobourg	9	1988	143	1	100	3	1750	3200
Toronto	23	2068	203	8	1987	5	2800	14138
Hamilton	25	3693	428	6	1144	3	2850	19591
London	30	2452	148	2	430	10	6225	9312
Total	124	14901	1247	29	5776	31	16373	80906
Last year	110	13722	1373	27	5743	33	11067	77312
Difference	14	1179	126	2	33	2	5310	3594

It will be observed from the above table that there has been an increase of *fourteen* ministers; the greatest increase having been in the Presbytery of London where *ten* have been added to the roll during the past year. There are present at this meeting of Synod 85 ministers and 44 elders, making a *Sederunt* of 129.

The number of libraries has not increased, although several sums have been expended in adding to the volumes previously reported. It were well, both for the people and their pastors, that each congregation had a well-filled library. It is to be hoped that this subject will engage the serious consideration of Presbyteries and Sessions.

The material property of the Church in Manses Glebes and Churches has been largely augmented during the past year. The committee believe that our Church will not be

completely organized until each charge shall have been provided with a comfortable Manse and its concomitant Glebe.

Large sums have been laid out in building, adding to, and improving churches. There is every indication of life in this department. Debts to a considerable amount have also been liquidated, although too much yet remains to be done in this matter. The property of the Church in Buildings and Glebes, was last year reported as about *ninety thousand pounds*—this year it exceeds *one hundred thousand.* This estimate does not include Knox College and its dependencies.

NOTES ON THE STATISTICS.

The following items of interest have been gathered from the returns:—All the ministers preach twice on each Lord's Day, except *four*, and the great majority have also week-day services; with the exception of *two* or *three*, all the ministers visit their people pastorally once a year, and some oftener; there are Sabbath Schools connected with almost all the congregations with a large attendance of children, and Libraries containing several thousand volumes; the management of congregational affairs is chiefly in the hands of Managers or Trustees, not deacons;—the average attendance on Public Worship is far greater in the forenoon than in the afternoon in all the congregations, save three or four.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The first Column in the schedule is that devoted to stipends or ministers' salaries. The Synod has repeatedly recommended to the various congregations the suggestions of the Brethren in the Eldership submitted during the Sessions of Synod, and it is hoped that these recommendations and suggestions will, in due time, produce good results. The rise in the price of all the necessaries of life, within the last few years, has entailed on ministers a large additional expenditure; and it is expected that these parties who have gained by the advance in prices will not overlook those who have suffered. The Committee regret that it is still their duty to Report a few congregations that give their pastors less than £100 per annum, viz:—

Presbytery of Montreal, 2.—Metis, £80; Leeds, £80.

Presbytery af Brockville and Ottawa, 2.—Dalhousie, £89; Aylmer, &c., £90.

Presbytery of Hamilton, 1.–Owen Sound, £82.

Presbytery of London, 1.—Lobo, £65.

There are thus, in all, *six* having less than £100! There were *eight* last year in this low position, three of which are reported above, and other three have been substituted for five withdrawn. The total amount reported as having been paid for stipend is £14,160, which sum divided among the contributing congregations, would yield to each minister an average of, at least, £143,—a sum more than equal to the dividend of the Sustentation Fund of the Free Church of Scotland!

THE COLLEGE.

Two columns are this year devoted to Knox College, one for Ordinary Expenses, and one for the Building Fund. The amount collected for both, reaches nearly £2,500. There has been some falling off in the contributions to the Ordinary Fund, as reported, although an additional Professor had been appointed at an expense of £400 per annum. However, a large sum has been supplied by the Churches to the Building Fund, on the whole realizing an amount which does credit to the liberality of the people. When the necessary buildings shall have been completed, and the debt for the purchase paid off, this sum will be amply sufficient to meet expenses even when the machinery of our Educational Institute shall have been perfected by additional professorships, under the Act of Incorporation.

The following congregations are reported as not having taken up collections for the Ordinary expenses of our College, viz:—

Presbytery of Montreal,5.—Metis, St Sylvester, Leeds, Cornwall, *Durham.*

Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa, 3.—Brockville, *Dalhousie*, Edwardsburg.

Presbytery of Cobourg, 1.—S. Cavan.

Presbytery of Toronto, 4.—York Mills, Oakville, King, Barrie.

Presbytery of Hamilton, 5.—Wellington Square, Simcoe, *Paris*, Wellesly Dunville.

Presbytery of London, 3.—*Stratford*, Saugeen, Plympton, and the newly settled charges.

In all 21;—an increase of *four* over the non-contributors of last year. Some of the above failed to collect last year also,—their names are in italics.

Although the sum raised for the Building Fund be the greater, (£1,300), yet the conbuting congregations are fewer than those that have aided the Ordinary Fund. Nearly 40 congregations have failed to give any thing, of which number there are 12 in the Presbytery of Hamilton, 9 in the Presbytery of Montreal, including the cities of Montreal and Quebec; 8 in the Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa: 3 in the Presbytery of Kingston; 3 in the Presbytery of Cobourg, and 3 in the Presbytery of Toronto.

FRENCH CANADIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

This scheme appears to be a favorite with the congregations of our Church, judging from the fewness of non-contributors. All the congregations in the Presbyteries of Toronto, Cobourg, Kingston, and Brockville and Ottawa have taken up collections for it. Those in the other Presbyteries that have omitted to do so are the following:—

Presbytery of Montreal, 1.—Leeds.

Presbytery of London, 2.—Stratford, Plympton.

Presbytery of Hamilton, 4.—Simcoe, Paris, Dunnville, W. Puslinch.

In all 7 congregations.

The contributions reported amount to less than those of last year, being £421 to £452,—a decrease of about £30.

BUXTON MISSION AND SYNOD FUND.

This Fund furnishes the means for the Religious and Educational training of the colored population at Buxton, under the superintendence of one of the ministers of our Church,—the Rev. W. King; and also for defraying the expenses connected with the meetings of the Synod. It likewise contributes a share to the payment of the Agent's salary.

All the congregations in the Church from which reports have been received, have contributed to the Fund, except *four*, and a few of the recently settled charges. These four are—Cumminsville, East Puslinch, Doon, and Perth. The amount reported this year is £349,—a trifle more than last year.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The action taken by the Synod last year in appointing a Missionary of its own to labor among the heathens of India, would, it was anticipated, lead to the display of increased liberality on the part of the people. The Committee regret to find that the hopes entertained have not been realized to the extent that they expected. The sum reported is only £620—not much greater than that received last year, and scarcely sufficient to meet the liabilities of the mission.

All the congregations in the Presbyteries of Brockville and Ottawa, Cobourg, and Kingston, have given in contributions. Those in the other Presbyteries that have failed are the following, viz:—

Presbytery of Hamilton, 4.—Owen Sound, McNab Street Church, Paris, Doon.

Presbytery of Toronto, 2.—Whitby, Barrie.

Presbytery of London, 1.—Port Stanley.

Presbytery of Montreal, 1.—St. Sylvester.

In all 8 congregations, to 7 last year.

WIDOWS' FUND.

This scheme, in which ministers are so deeply interested, has not received the support that its importance deserves. As may be seen below, some of the largest congregations have failed to contribute; but it is pleasant to know that some generous individuals have given handsome donations.

The following congregations have reported no contributions to this Fund, viz:—

Presbytery of Montreal, 2.—Quebec, Leeds.

Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa, 1.—Beckwith.

Presbytery of Toronto, 2.–York Mills, Whitby.

Presbytery of London, 5.—Aldborough, Saugeen.

Presbytery of Hamilton, 4.—Dundas, McNab Street Church, Owen Sound, Blenheim.

There are thus *eleven* congregations to *ten* last year, that are reported in default. It is painful to note that there is a considerable falling off in the congregational contributions,—the sum this year being only £309, whereas the sum reported last year amounted to £354—a decrease of nearly £50.

PRESBYTERIES' HOME MISSION FUND.

As in former years considerable sums have been raised by the several Presbyteries for missionary labour within their respective bounds. The total amount thus raised reaches very nearly £700. This sum does not include the contributions of the Mission Stations in payment of their own Missionaries; but is confined to the collections taken up expressly for this object. It is somewhat less than last year, owing in part, no doubt, to the default of the following congregations, viz:—

Presbytery of Montreal, 6.— Quebec, Metis, Lachute. St Sylvester, Leeds, Durham.

Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa, 5.—Ottawa, Dalhousie, Perth, Wakefield, Bristol.

Presbytery of Hamilton. 6.—Owen Sound, Wellington Square, Paris, Doon, Wellesly, Elora.

Presbytery of London, 1.—Saugeen.

Presbytery of Cobourg, 1.—Springville.

Thus nineteen congregations have omitted to contribute. There is no omission in the Presbytery of Kingston.

BURSARIES.

Very little indeed has been done for this object, notwithstanding the appeal of last year. A sum of only £33 10s. has been raised, and this amount is contributed by the congregations of St. Gabriel Street Church, Streetsville, both the Churches in the City of Hamilton, and St. Catherines.

The following table will exhibit at a glance the several contributions of the respective Presbyteries;—it being premised that the contributions to the Bursary Fund, and for congregational libraries—about £100—are included in the miscellanies.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Presbyteries.	Stipend.	Knox College. Ordinary.	Knox College. Building.	F. C. Mission'y Society.	Buxton Mission.	Foreign Mission.	Widows' Fund.	Pres. Home Mission.	Paid on Buildings.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
Montreal	1988	167	85	76	52	113	35	47	2062	668	
London	2864	142	425	72	64	93	57	250	940	954	
Hamilton	3302	262	292	94	81	159	103	131	6654	1586	
Toronto	1878	286	235	63	63	81	42	74	1526	1145	
Cobourg	1533	102	200	56	46	99	27	88	1115	451	
Kingston	941	37	38	21	18	30	17	48	438	108	
Brockville and Ottawa	1654	43	76	39	28	47	28	24	196	341	
Total	14160	1039	1291	421	349	622	309	662	12931	5253	

The following is a recapitulation of the sums contributed by the respective Presbyteries:—

Montreal	£5293;	last year...	£5109.
London.....	5858;	" ...	5096.
Hamilton....	12604;	" ...	7157.
Toronto	5393;	" ...	4876.
Cobourg.....	3717;	" ...	3905.
Kingston	1696;	" ...	1254.
Brockville & Ottawa....	2476;	" ...	2691.
Total...	£37037;	" ...	£30088.

The increase is thus shown to be about £7,000. There has been an increase in all the Presbyteries except Cobourg, and Brockville & Ottawa.

Whatever remarks the Synod may see fit to make in reference to the smallness of some of the contributions, the Committee believe that there is no denomination, containing so many congregations that returns so few non-contributors. The history of the past year has been remarkable for the pressure in the commercial world, and no doubt, this pressure has in part affected many of the friends of our schemes. In some form, all parties have been influenced by the state of the money market; and it would appear that while the ability of some of our members may have been lessened, the liberality of others has not corresponded with the enhanced value of produce. On the whole, it is the opinion of the Committee that it would be unfair to estimate the prospective amount of our congregational benefactions from *data* afforded by a year of unusual commercial depression.

In looking over the above table it is surprising to find how small is the average contribution of each member within the respective Presbyteries! If the aggregate amount raised by each Presbytery be divided among the members within its bounds, the following will be the average contribution of each member:—

Presbytery of Montreal.....	£2	15	0
" Brockville & Ottawa.	1	3	0
" Kingston.....	2	11	0
" Cobourg.....	1	17	0
" Toronto.....	2	12	0
" Hamilton.....	3	8	6
" London.....	2	7	6

If, again, the total contributions of the church, amounting to £37,037, be divided among the aggregate number of members, the average contribution of each will be about £2 12s. 6d—a small sum, but yet a sum not surpassed by many of the churches in the Old or New world!

The Presbytery of Hamilton stands first for the amount raised. It occupied this pre-eminence last year also. The congregations in the City of Hamilton have raised very large sums. The McNab Street Church has put forth a very successful effort to raise contributions for its Building Fund, but Knox's Church, as before, stands first in its ordinary contributions.

In conclusion, the Committee would briefly recapitulate some of the items on which they desiderate the conference of the Synod.

1. The Committee would recommend, in order to bring the state of the Church fully before the members, that the Report be submitted in a printed form to every congregation within the bounds, so that the matter may be leisurely considered by the people before they are appealed to.

2. That the requirements of the several schemes be presented in a distinct form, so that the people may not be in the dark as to the necessity of the case, and that for this purpose the probable estimates of each Synodical year be drawn up by the Agent of the Church.

3. That a balance sheet for the past year be presented at each meeting of Synod, showing the payments made, and the state of the Fund at the end of the year just closed.

4. That this account be audited, and the Auditor's Report printed for the satisfaction of the contributors.

The Committee believe that by the adoption of such a plan, the confidence of the Church will be maintained, and its contributions augmented to the necessary amount.

In the name of the Committee,

S. C. Fraser, *Convener.*

REPORT ON REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, &c.

The Committee appointed by the Synod to correspond with the Provincial Government respecting the Registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, report,—

That, through the department of Statistics, your Committee has been informed that the Government has agreed, that so far as it is concerned, the sections of the Census Act requiring Ministers to make certain returns shall be a *dead letter*, inasmuch as it is satisfied that the sections do not, in fact, secure the obtaining of the information required; and that it has the whole subject under its consideration, and expects to be able to propose to the Legislature a satisfactory registration law. Your Committee report that an Act has been passed during the late Session, which provides for the registration of marriages, and contains several provisions which will be found satisfactory.

Thomas Lowry, *Convener.*

Kingston, June 12th, 1857.

Knox College—Professors' Reports.

REPORT OF PROFESSOR YOUNG'S CLASSES.

The course of study pursued in the Class of Exegetical Theology in Knox College last Session, was as follows:—The Books of Amos, Habakkuk, Nahum, and Haggai, with the first five chapters of Zechariah, were read in the original Hebrew by the students; and after each book had been thus gone over, it was expounded by the Professor. It is right to remark here that the progress of the students was considerably retarded by their generally imperfect acquaintance with the Hebrew language. The Professor purposes, if spared, to read with his Exegetical class next session, in the same manner as described above, some of the New Testament as well as of the Old; and to deliver a brief course of lectures on the principles of Scripture Exposition.

In the philosophical classes, the subjects of study were, as usual, Logic and the Elements of Mental Philosphy, for students in the Junior department: and Mental Philosophy (continued), with Ethics, for those in the Senior department.

Each of the students in the second year of their theological course prepared an "Exercise and Addition," and Essays were written by all the students in the philosophical classes. Each of the classes met one hour per day during five days in the week.

June 9, 1857.

REPORT OF DR. BURNS' CLASSES.

Church History.—The course of lectures from April 1856 to April 1st, 1857, embraced the following topics:—

I. History in general—its nature, objects, and uses; best method of studying it, chart of ancient, medieval, and modern history; characters of leading historical writers, ancient and modern.

II. Sketches historical and argumentative of questions and opinions, respecting,—

(1.) The Mosaic History of Creation and of the Deluge.

(2.) The Common Origin of the Human Family.

(3.) The primitive condition of man, or (as it has been called) the state of nature.

(4.) The connection between Ancient Sacred and profane history.

III. The history of the work of redemption under various dispensations, as exhibited in the Old Testament, historically, typically, and prophetically, with a view of the leading events during the period which elapsed, from the close of the canon of the Old Testament to the coming of Christ.

IV. A condensed view of Jewish antiquities, with a special respect to the typical character of the Mosaic economy; and notices of the MS S. of the Old Testament Scriptures.

V. Examination of the theories of Eichhorn, DeWette, Strauss, and others, regarding the history of our blessed Saviour, and analysis of the Acts of the Apostles.

VI. The history of the New Testament Church, from the day of Pentecost down to the era of Constantine.

EVIDENCE CLASS.

I. Sketches of various theories of infidelity ancient and modern—chiefly the latter—as embracing Atheism, Pantheism, and Development theories—and the different forms of Deism as at present in vogue.

II. The existence, attributes, and government of God—argument a priori of Dr. Clarke—argument of DesCartes, estimate of the argument in regard to clearness and conclusivness. Argument from Design—replies to objections by Lord Bacon, DesCartes, Hume and others—Illustrations from works of God—from mind—from adaptations—from succession of events.—Development theory — Geology — argument from *Conscience.*

IV. Evidences of revelation—possibility—necessity and probability of revelation—objections of Newman and others as to the *mode* of revelation,—Miracles—Prophecy—Rapid Propagation of the Gospel—Internal Evidence—undersigned coincidences.

Genuineness–Authenticity–Inspiration of the Sacred books—Replies to popular objections.

TEXT BOOKS USED.

Butler's Analogy; Paley's Evidences; Whatley's Works on Evidence.

Examination weekly on four Lectures on Evidences—and in Church History on three.

Four Essays written during the Session by Students, and freely criticised.

No written Essays on Church History, but written examinations—attendance regular.

REPORT OF SENIOR THEOLOGY CLASS IN KNOX COLLEGE.

Dr. Willis conducted the Students of the 2nd and 3rd (or last) Theological years in the departments of Systematic, Biblical, Critical, and Pastoral Theology. The students were classed together in the prosecution of studies common to both, except that in the early part of the session, a separate hour was given, weekly, to the object of initiating the students of 2nd year in the elementary principles of Criticism and Hermeneutics, already gone over by their associates of the 3rd or last year.

In the systematic course the students of both years were, after some recapitulatory exercises on the part of the Seniors, carried over the concluding part of the course, which is occupied with questions on Church Government. Being a subject in some respects detailed and independent, it was competent to both classes of students alike to deal with it. Thereafter, the commencement of the doctrinal course was reverted to, and as much of the system overtaken as brought us on nearly to the part of the course at which the recapitulation in the earlier part of the session began. The prelections and examinatious included the subject of the canon and inspiration, the Being and attributes of God—the Creation and Fall of Man—the covenant of works in its relation to the covenant of Redemption—the Person and Natures of Christ—the Divinity of the Holy Spirit—the Atonement, &c.

In this class Dr. Hill's system of Theology was taken as a class book, with frequent reference to the Confession of Faith however, for the sake of its singularly accurate statements and definitions.

A part of Calvin was also read, viz., that which is comprehended in the Latin Collectanea (one of our own proper Class Books.)—The subject of Calvin's discussion is Repentance and Confession—(refutation of Papist views). In the Biblical Criticism Class, Horne was used as a class book; and considerable portions of it exercised on—especially selections from those parts respecting the manuscripts and versions and the rules of interpretation. In this class the reading of the Greek Text (and occasionally of the Hebrew Bible) was a frequent exercises; the plan preferred being to read such portions as tended to throw light on the questions treated of at the time in the systematic course. In this way the critical analysis of texts came to the aid of our doctrinal expositions.

In the Pastoral Class also a part of the New Testament was read—especially the Epistles of Timothy, but these readings were alternated with lectures on the various duties of the Pastoral office.

As in former sessions, an hour each second Monday was given to Pulpit reading—and as before also, a monthly devotional exercise was held, common to all the members of the College

Dr. Willis can report favourably of the attendance of the students, though occasionally considerable loss has still been caused to some of them by their withdrawment for Pulpit duty on Sabbaths often detaining them from one or more class exercises. Still, it seemed the aim of the students to give as regular attendance as possible, and any exercises prescribed during the session were, with few exceptions, not only performed, but punctually at their proper time.

Perhaps it belongs to Dr. Willis' department specially, to report the number ready (if God will) to be taken on trials for licence, and already indeed in some cases entered on trials. They amount to seven.

ANNUAL PRESBYTERIAL REPORTS.

PRESBYTERY OF BROCKVILLE AND OTTAWA.

License:

1. Mr. John McRobie was licensed at Perth to preach the Gospel at Perth, on the 4th. September, 1856.

Demission:

1. The Rev. W. J. McDowell demitted his charge of S. Gower, Oxford, and Mountain (now called Kemptville) on the 3rd September, 1856.

Induction:

1. The Rev. James Smith was translated from Ramsay, and inducted into Brockville, on the 2nd October, 1856.
2. The Rev. Andrew Melville was inducted into Edwardsburgh, on the 5th February, 1857.

Ordination:

1. Mr. Henry McMeekin, Probationer, was ordained at Pembroke, on the 25th March, 1857.

S. C. Fraser, *Pres. Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF COBOURG.

The Rev. Robert Boag, was loosed from the pastoral charge of the Congregation of Cartwright and Manvers, on the 26th of August, 1856.

James Bowie, *Pres. Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF KINGSTON.

The Presbytery of Kingston have to Report, for the past year,

1. That they have inducted Mr James Hume as Pastor of Huntingdon and Tyendinaga.
2. That they ordained Mr. D. Wishart to the pastoral charge of Madoc.
3. That they have accepted Mr. D. B. Pearce's resignation of the charge of Chalmers' Church, Kingston.

William Gregg, *Pres. Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

Induction:

1. The Rev. Thomas J. Hodgkins has been inducted to the pastoral care of the United Congregations at Doon and New Hope.
2. The Rev. Robert Jameison, to that of the Congregation at Dunville.
3. The Rev. A. C. Geikie, to that of the Congregation at Berlin.
4. And Mr. Andrew McLean, Probationer, was ordained and inducted as Pastor of the Congregation at West Puslinch.

The Rev. James Pirie resigned his charge at Niagara, on account of ill health.

Mr. George Cuthbertson, Mr. John McMillan, and Mr. John Milloy, were licensed to preach the Gospel.

M. Y. Stark, *Pres. Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF LONDON.

Cases of License, Ordination, and Induction.

In the Presbytery of London there has been during the year,

Licensed:

1. Mr. William T. McMullen, on the 12th of August.

Ordained:

1. The Rev. William J. McMullen, at Mornington, on the 5th November.
2. The Rev. Alexander Young, at St. Thomas, on the 28th of January.
3. The Rev. John McMillan, at Fingal, on the 29th January.
4. The Rev. John Straith, at Tilbury, on the 30th of January.
5. The Rev William Forrest, at Ridgetown, on the 18th February.
6. The Rev. John Rennie, at Beachville, on the 22nd of April.

And the Rev. David Beattie, at St. Mary's, on the 23d of April.

Inductions:

The Rev. James Findlay, at Mitchell, on the 10th of September.

The Rev. William Troup, at Plympton, also on the 10th of September.

J. Scott, *Pres. Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL.

Resignations:

Rev. R. C. Swinton resigned the mission-charge of Richmond, to accept of a call to the pastorate at Markham.

Rev. David Black resigned St. Therese de Blainville.

Inductions:

Rev. W. Quin inducted unto the charges at Winchester.

Licensed:

Mr. A. Young and Mr. John Straith.

A. F. Kemp, *Clerk, pro. tem.*

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

Certified list of cases of license, Reception, ordination, Induction, Translation, and Resignation of Ministers within the bounds of the esbytery of Toronto, since the Meeting of nod in June, 1856.

License:

Mr. John McKay was licensed to preach the Gospel, on the 17th July, 1856.

Received into this Church:

Rev. A. C. Geikie, was received as an Ordained Minister, of this Church, on the 16th of July, 1856.

2. Mr. Edward D. Montgomery, was received as Probationer, on the 16th of July, 1856.
3. Mr. Thomas Sharp was received as a Probationer, on the 3rd of December, 1856.

Ordinations:

1. Mr. James Mitchell, Probationer, to the united charges at Milton and Boston Church, (Esquesing,) on the 17th of February, 1857.
2. Mr. Thomas Sharp, Probationer, to the united charges at Ashburn, (rear of Whitby), and Utica, (front of Reach), on the 20th May, 1857.

Inductions:

1. Rev. A. Marshall, was inducted to the Pastoral charge of Cooke's Church, Toronto, on the 9th of August, 1856.
2. Rev. R. C. Swinton, was inducted to the pastoral charge of the united congregations in Markham on the 11th of March, 1857.

Translation:

1. Rev. R. Burns, D. D., was translated from the pastoral charge of the congregation of Knox's Church, Toronto, to the Chair of Church History and of the Evidences of Christianity, Knox College on the 3rd of July, 1856.
2. Rev. Thomas Lowry, was translated from the pastoral charge of the united congregations in West Gwillimbury, and inducted to the pastoral charge of the congregation in in the Town of Whitby, on the 3rd March, 1857.

Resignation:

1. Rev. A. Marshall, on account of ill health, resigned the pastoral charge of Cooke's Church Toronto, on the 31st of March, 1857.

Thos. Wightman, *Pres. Clerk.*

ADDENDA.

The following Committees were omitted in their proper places:—

WIDOWS' FUND COMMITTEE.

Dr. Burns, Professor Young, Messrs. Smellie, Scott, Inglis, D. Fraser, Dr. Boyd, Dr. Irvine, Ministers; and Messrs. Osborne, Buchanan, Walker, McLellan, Elmslie, Davidson, Blain, Ferrier, McMurrich, Shaw, Spreull, Morgan, C. S. Patterson, Hay, Redpath, D. Davidson, Court, Gibb, D. Dickson, Hon. J. McDonald; James Osborne, Esq., Hamilton, Convener.

FOREIGN MISSION COMMITTEE.

Messrs. D. Fraser, Clarke, Kemp, T. Wardrope, Wilson, McLeod, Reid, Dr. Irvine, Messrs. Inglis, Stark, Scott, Ball, Lowry, McRuar, Dr. Burns, Ministers; and Messrs. Redpath, Court, Clark, Dickerman, Elder, Kennedy, Cattanach, Turnbull, Ross, Elders; Messrs. D. Fraser, and T. Lowry, Joint Conveners.

BOARD OF COLPORTAGE AND PUBLICATION.

Messrs. Scott, Reid, Ure, Dr. Irving, Messrs. T. Wardrope, S. Young, Nisbet, Inglis, King, Laing, R. F. Burns, and J. McTavish, Ministers; and Messrs. Dickerman, Osborne, Young, McMurrich, Hopkins, Mitchell, Stewart, Court, Begg, Clark, Cowan, and McKenzie; Mr. Inglis, Convener.

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE.

Messrs. Gregg, Smellie, Reid, and Kemp, Ministers; and Messrs. Court and Ferrier, Elders.

ERRATUM.

Page 14, third line from bottom, after the word "and" insert "Messrs. Begg, Clark, Cowan, and McKenzie, in place of"—

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THE

MINUTES OF THE SYNOD

OF THE

Presbyterian Church of Canada,

AT ITS SESSIONS AT HAMILTON, C. W.,

JUNE 15-22, 1858.

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